

THE JERUSALEM POST

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19545

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1997 • ADAR II 21, 5757 • 22 THU AL-QADAH 1417

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PM rejects 'make-believe peace'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and JON IMMANUEL

As US envoy Dennis Ross left the region on Friday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated that a peaceful Land Day today will be the first test of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's promise to fight violence and terrorism.

Netanyahu stressed that Arafat's promises to Ross to fight against terrorism "can only be tested over time, and will be proved in the coming days, weeks, and months. This is a test of the entire peace process, because Israel, its citizens and government, will not continue a

asked to take steps in exchange for Arafat's commitment and there is no linkage between it and any measures on Israel's part, such as refraining from taking unilateral actions.

Ross met privately with Netanyahu for two lengthy sessions on Thursday night and Friday afternoon before departing. He also met with Netanyahu together with Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Netanyahu and the ministers told Ross that Israel demands the immediate cessation of violence by the Palestinians, as well as more thorough action against Hamas and Islamic Jihad. They



US special envoy Dennis Ross (left) meets Friday in Jerusalem with PM Binyamin Netanyahu. (Brian Hendler)

make-believe peace process in which are cafes are bombed in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or any other place.

Jerusalem sources expressed concern that the Americans may be satisfied with a few steps against terrorism on Arafat's part, and that start exerting pressure on Israel. Netanyahu made it clear that Israel has not been

demanding the Palestinian Authority arrest terrorists, destroy terrorist infrastructure, and order its security services to cooperate with their Israeli counterparts.

After his second meeting with Netanyahu, Ross said, "It is essential to reestablish the calm."

Continued on Page 10

IDF, PA probe riot death

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, JON IMMANUEL and MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

The IDF and Palestinian Police are investigating the death yesterday of a Palestinian engineering student killed while IDF soldiers dispersed a stone-throwing mob assaulting the Arak Checkpoint near Ramallah.

The death has escalated ten-



A Palestinian picks up a tear gas shell shot at rioters at the Arak checkpoint near Ramallah yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Worshippers evacuated from Western Wall, Page 3

sions between Israel and the Palestinians. Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi described it as "a declaration of war," Reuters reported.

The student, Abdullah Salah, 20, was the first fatality in clashes between IDF troops and Palestinians since students began rioting 10 days ago to protest against the construction at Har Homa.

According to the IDF, violent riots erupted at the southern entrance to Ramallah and soldiers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd. One officer was hospitalized with moderate to light wounds, the army said.

Later, Abdullah, a resident of Beit Sahur who studied at Bir Zeit University, was brought to a hospital with a gaping chest wound, reportedly caused by a live bullet. Hospital officials said he had been shot in the back.

Another Palestinian was critically wounded by IDF gunfire. AP quoted a Palestinian hospital official as saying,

Abdullah's death came despite strict open-fire instructions to IDF soldiers only to shoot live rounds when their lives were endangered.

Military sources said an ini-

tial investigation into the incident showed that troops used only non-lethal weapons to respond. A joint inquiry into the death is being carried out by the IDF and Palestinian Police.

The army said the clashes occurred outside of the Palestinian-controlled Area A and said its troops "reacted with restraint toward rioters who endangered the lives of the IDF soldiers and border police."

Also yesterday, the army clamped a curfew on the

Kalandia refugee camp near Ramallah after riots erupted there. Two border policemen were lightly wounded by stones.

In Bethlehem, students threw stones and firebombs, and burned an effigy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Five Palestinians were reportedly wounded by rubber bullets before the demonstrators were dispersed by the Palestinian Police.

Abdullah was buried in a funeral attended by about 5,000 mourners last night near Omar Mosque in Beit Sahur, a largely

Christian town that has been the focus of recent protests against Har Homa, which is on its outskirts.

Some attending the funeral shouted slogans against the peace process. "People feel the peace process is going to hell," said Dr. Nabil Kukali.

Relatives said that Abdullah had phoned and told them he would not participate in any demonstrations and may have been on his way home when he was shot near the checkpoint.

In Hebron, Palestinians rioted for several hours, throwing

rocks and firebombs at IDF soldiers on Friday. According to Hebron settlers, the rioting started mid-morning in Kikar Hashoter, the casba, Sbalala Road, and Tel Rumeida.

The settlers claimed that the Palestinian Police did nothing to intervene and at one point, Abbas Zaki, a senior Fatah official, was leading the rioters.

In the early afternoon, a Kiryat Arba woman was lightly wounded when her front windshield was smashed by stones thrown near the El Aroub refugee camp.

Canadian-Jewish groups clash over 'Nazi snitch line'

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO — Canada's major Jewish organizations are at each others' throats over a plan to set up a telephone "Nazi snitch line." The new plan, unveiled last week by the Canadian Jewish Congress, proposes that some Nazi war criminals or collaborators be granted immunity or other legal deals to entice them to turn on their comrades, and spur the Canadian government to quicken its pace of prosecutions.

But critics of the plan — B'nai B'rith and the Simon Wiesenthal Center among them — charge the congress is making deals with Nazis, even proposing to defend them should their evidence implicate a big catch.

The confidential telephone line will be monitored by congress officials and by New York private investigator Steve Rambam, whose Canadian exploits created a huge splash across the country earlier this year.

Posing as an academic from a fictitious university and armed with little more than a telephone book and existing lists, Rambam says he found 161 alleged Nazi criminals living in Canada and obtained secretly taped confessions from several. His findings confirmed for many in Canada's Jewish community that the nation has been a haven for Nazi

and other war criminals. Rambam called the telephone line "1-800-rat-on-a-Nazi," following his meeting in Ottawa last week with several members of Parliament.

"If you are a war criminal, this is your last chance," he said. "If you don't come forward and cooperate with us, we may very well end up building a case against you with another cooperative witness."

David Matas, a lawyer for B'nai B'rith Canada, called the idea "morally repugnant" and "twisted," saying that the congress is "contemplating standing up for war criminals."

Irving Abella, who chairs the congress's war crimes committee, defended the telephone hot line as a "tried and true method" that's been used successfully by the US Office of Special Investigations.

But, it will be "largely symbolic. We don't expect a large number of people to phone. This is our attempt to give the government to emulate a successful technique. We have to try something when after 50 years, all the government has to show is one deportation and one denaturalization [of suspected Nazi war criminals]."

Abella said the congress has no power to ask for immunity or legal deals for informants. He said any information gleaned from calls would simply be passed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

But Rambam said that should anyone come forward with incriminating evidence, "we will go on their behalf to the RCMP and to the justice minister to try and strike a deal for them."

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and Tim

The IDF and police are bracing for widespread protests and are on high alert to prevent violent clashes as Israeli Arabs and Palestinians mark Land Day today.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Israeli Arabs to maintain calm and act within the law. "You are loyal citizens of Israel, and you will behave accordingly," Netanyahu said.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav, who is responsible for the Arab sector, also urged Arab leaders to do their utmost to

Netanyahu calls for Israeli Arab restraint

ensure that today's activities pass quietly. "We have to ensure law and order under all circumstances," he said.

"We prefer to avoid declarations and keep as low a profile as possible, while at the same time not be surprised and be prepared for any eventuality," the police spokesman for the northern region said last night.

The main rally by Israeli Arabs will be held in the Galilee village of Sakhnin, which lost five of its residents in the rioting that broke out in the Karmiel area 21

years ago to protest government confiscation of Arab land. Police will close sections of the nearby Misgav road from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

Rallies and processions will also take place in various other villages, including Kfar Kana, which also lost a resident in the 1976 clashes.

In Shfaram, the Forum of Arab Council Heads will operate a situation room, monitoring reports on events throughout the day. Council leaders have called on Israeli Arabs not to break the

flashpoints to protect Jewish settlers and Israeli interests.

The army has said it will allow protests, but not violence. Palestinian Police are expected to quell rioting first and if they fail, then the IDF will take action.

The army has also made it clear that it will react vigorously to any live fire attacks on its troops and has positioned snipers at key spots. It has also moved tanks behind potential confrontation areas to serve as a deterrent.

למען ציון לא נשתק
"For Zion's Sake I Shall Not Remain Silent"

We warmly welcome The Leadership Mission of the **Anti-Defamation League** of the USA and congratulate them on the 20th anniversary of their branch in Jerusalem.

We particularly wish to express our appreciation to **DAVID STRASSLER**, President of the League **ABRAHAM FOXMAN**, National Director of the League **NAT KAMENY**, Our U.S. Representative for their active support in our struggle for Jerusalem.

Eliyahu Tal, Chairman *Yaakov Padwa, Hon. Sec.*

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR A UNITED JERUSALEM

LAST CALL FOR HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on **Wednesday, April 23, 1997**, at the Ra'anana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School.

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All proceeds from the fair will help Israel's needy children, the elderly and new immigrants.

The Jerusalem WEATHER

Jerusalem 9-17
Tel Aviv 15-17
Beersheva 7-18

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SHABAT: Party mood

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 grandfather
 The funeral took place at Kibbutz Lavi on
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 The Family


Our sincere condolences to
 Rabbi Shlomo Riskin
 on the death of his
FATHER
 Management and Staff
 of The Jerusalem Post

Our deepest condolences to
 Yael Saxe
 and the entire family on the passing of your
Father ז"ל
 Kibbutz Malka

On the thirtieth day since the passing of our dear
LOLA BEER EBNER ז"ל
 and 4 years since the passing of our dear
DOLFI EBNER ז"ל
 The consecration of the tombstone will take place on
 Thursday 3rd April, 1997 at 12.00 noon
 (Meet next to the entrance to the
 Nahalat Yitzhak Cemetery)
 At 6.00 p.m., a memorial evening will be held in the
 Lola Ebner Hall at the University campus in
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 Friends are invited
 The Zwilling and Chernitzki Families


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 Judi and Roy Stern and Family
 The funeral will take place today,
 Sunday, March 30, 1997 (21 Adar II)
 at 5:30 p.m., leaving from the Rav Tachliti, Efirat,
 and continuing to Kfar Etzion Cemetery.
 For details call Ohr Torah offices, 02-993-1911

 ADL
 Anti-Defamation League
 The Anti-Defamation League mourns
 the passing of our dear friend
SHOUL EISENBERG
 Shoul's pioneering leadership to open up the world for Israel will
 always be remembered and deeply appreciated by all those who
 love and support Israel.
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החברה לישראל בע"מ
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SHOUL N. EISENBERG
 chairman of the board,
 and share in the grief of managing director
Erwin A. Eisenberg
 and in the deep sorrow of the family.

In deep sorrow
 we announce the passing of
SHOUL N. EISENBERG
 The funeral will take place today,
 Sunday, March 30, 1997 (21 Adar II 5757)
 at 4 p.m. at the Savyon Cemetery.
 The Bereaved Family

The management and workers of the
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 mourn the death of
SHOUL N. EISENBERG
 and share in the profound grief
 of the family.

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SHOUL N. EISENBERG
 chairman of the board of Israel Chemicals,
 and share in the family's grief.

PM: Unity gov't 'not practical'

By SARAH HONIG

A national unity government "is not a practical option right now," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last night, as he was addressing Likud activists in Tel Aviv.

He did, however, not rule out the formation of national unity government in the future.

The prime minister told his audience that he had invited Labor to join his government "several times since the election. I told them they could enter the government on the basis of the existing coalition guidelines. Labor was the side that declined."

Netanyahu refused to answer questions about the Bar-On Affair but said that he is waiting for the results of the investigation and that he expects that "at the end, the press will have a good deal to answer for."

Despite the fact that the

Knesset begins its spring recess this week and will be out until May 19, talk of broadening the coalition is not expected to die out during the coming weeks, but may even intensify as June 3, the date Labor is to elect a new chairman to replace MK Shimon Peres, gets closer.

The consensus in Labor is that Peres will make every possible effort to get his party into the Netanyahu government before then, so that he can enter the cabinet as the senior Labor representative and thereby cement his leadership. However, all in the political arena agree that no move can be made until after the Bar-On Affair is concluded.

A top Labor source said last night that Peres would not have gone so far out on a limb in his risky advocacy of national unity had he not had some assenting nod from Netanyahu's direction, even if it fell far short of a formal invitation.

Eisenberg remembered

Indisputably Israel's greatest international business entrepreneur, Shaul Eisenberg's career, from indigent refugee youth in Shanghai to global business empire, was of legendary proportions and achievement.

His memories of the Shanghai, to which he and members of his family fled from Europe on the eve of World War II, could only have been equivocal; yet his frequent visits to that city evoked in him rich and warm memories of the Jewish community and synagogues, side by side with his pride in the Pilkington glass factory, of which he was a founding investor, and in the numerous other major industrial enterprises which he initiated in that city, as throughout China.

China was surely the scene of his international industrial and business activities. After accumulating experience and honing his business acumen on a global scale, from Japan and Korea across two continents to Latin America, his timing in China was historically impeccable, coinciding with China's transformation, its opening to the outside world and the new Deng era.

After 30 years of estrangement in China-Israel relations, he initiated the China-Israel connection, which expanded and deepened as the result

of his business initiatives throughout the 1980s, until diplomatic relations were established in January 1992.

He brought to China technology in every field: electric generators and power plants, chemical production, aluminum and steel plants, telecommunications, and the conversion of military to civilian industries on a vast scale. His activities may well have made him the foremost contributor to China's economic transformation and modernization.

Throughout, Shaul Eisenberg remained loyal to his roots, establishing his home in Israel as and his business headquarters in Asia House, the construction of which was itself a spectacular business event in Tel Aviv at the time. He "thought" to Israel great wealth and outstanding experience, committing himself and his family to Israel's future, which was always his major concern.

He viewed the critical threat to Israel as developing in the Persian Gulf, and his sincere hope was that his contribution to Israel-China relations could serve to limit and allay that threat.

Above all, his pride in his family living in Israel and his grandchildren serving in the IDF characterized Shaul Eisenberg, the man and the Jew.



Shaul Eisenberg (David Rubinger)



A policeman helps a worshiper away from the Western Wall on Friday, after Moslem worshippers began throwing stones at policemen. (AP)

Jewish worshipers evacuated from the Wall

By EELI WOHLGELERENTER

Jewish worshipers were evacuated from in front of the Western Wall for about 10 minutes on Friday, after dozens of Arabs threw stones at policemen guarding the Mugrabi Gate entrance to the Temple Mount.

The incident took place shortly after 25,000 Arabs attended noon-time prayer services at Al-Aksa Mosque.

A half-dozen policemen were hit by the rocks, but none was injured. Wakf guards helped to disperse the protesters.

Police continue to be on full alert for Land Day today, but a source said police were not expecting much trouble in Jerusalem itself, though they are concerned about the demonstrations slated to take place in other areas.

Last night two passengers on the No. 25 bus between French Hill and Neveh Ya'acov were lightly wounded by broken glass when the bus was stoned. The bus driver took the wounded to a nearby Magen David Adom station.

Another No. 25 bus was stoned last night at its last stop in Neveh Ya'acov, but no one was hurt.

On the Ma'aleh Adumim road northeast of Jerusalem, a firebomb was thrown at a car causing damage

but no injuries. Police could not confirm reports that a No. 2 bus that had left the Western Wall area was stoned and a man injured.

On Friday, Palestinian youths burned tires in Shuafat and Sur Bahir.

In his Friday sermon at the Al-Aksa Mosque, the Jerusalem mufti said there can be no peace as long as there is a pact between Israel and the US, and until Israel ceases its construction on Har Homa.

The mufti also said that since the United States twice vetoed recent UN Security Council resolutions condemning Israel, there was no point in sending US envoy Dennis Ross to the region.

NEWS

in brief

Elderly man killed in multiple crash

A 78-year-old Ramat Gan man was killed in a chain collision on Rchov Aluf Sadeh in Givatayim on Friday. Police say his car crashed into three cars stopped at a traffic light. In other accidents over the weekend, three people were seriously injured when a train crashed into a car at a railway crossing in Lod. Eight people were lightly injured in a collision between two cars at the Ashdod-Ashkelon junction. *Itm*

Meretz rallies to keep mall open on Shabbat

Some 100 Meretz Party activists demonstrated yesterday at the site of the soon-to-be-opened Ramat Aviv Mall, to protest against the intentions of owners Africa Israel to close the premises on Shabbat. Several dozen protesters wore black veils and carried placards reading: "This is not Teheran," "Saturday is my day off" and others.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid told the rally, "The struggle for the mall is one point in the greater struggle against religious coercion. We'll win in Ramat Aviv just as we won at Bar-Ilan [street] and will win the battle for the Conversion Law." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Three boys hurt by homemade bomb

Three 10-year-old Rosh Pina boys were injured yesterday, one seriously, when an explosive device they made blew up in their faces. Police said the bomb - made of 20mm, anti-aircraft shells and match heads - exploded prematurely when the boys relit the fuse after it had gone out. The explosion on a local tennis court panicked residents, many of them thought it was a terrorist attack. The seriously injured boy was taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer; his two friends were admitted to Sieff Hospital in Safed in satisfactory condition. Police said they had the names of other boys who collected discarded IDF ordnance. *Itm*

Islamic-Christian conference blasts Israel

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG

ROME - An Islamic-Christian conference on Jerusalem held at Rome's Grand Mosque - the largest in Europe - concluded yesterday with an appeal by delegates against the "Judaization" of Jerusalem.

Israeli construction at Har Homa was the main point of contention in the two-day discussions. Khalil Tufakji, a building expert from the Society of Arab Studies, said when the project is completed, eastern Jerusalem will be isolated from the rest of the West Bank.

Hamid Ahmed Rifai, associate secretary of the Moslem World Congress, warned that Israel was losing a golden opportunity for peace by insisting on changing the demography of Jerusalem, "claiming the city as its eternal political and religious capital and intending to rebuild the Temple on the site of Al-Aksa Mosque."

The Vatican's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, received the conference delegates, who included politicians, academics, and religious leaders from the Vatican, Arab countries and Jerusalem. Messages of support were read from a number of Arab leaders, including the kings of Morocco, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Tel Aviv one week after the bomber struck

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

As they gathered in cafes and restaurants Friday and yesterday, Tel Aviv residents demonstrated that it would take more than rumors of a repeat terrorist attack to keep them indoors on a sunny weekend.

While the city's numerous eating and drinking establishments may not have been as packed with revelers as usual, they were far from empty. Even those with extensive outdoor seating, potentially vulnerable to attacks like the one on the Apropro Cafe, did not find themselves devoid of clientele.

At Apropro, where three customers lost their lives in the suicide bombing a week earlier, it was difficult for the staff to treat

Friday as a routine workday. Shift manager Erez Agmoo noted that many of the establishment's regular customers were missing this weekend, though other people came to the cafe especially to show support.

"Some people told me that they chose our cafe because they figured the terrorists wouldn't hit the same place two weeks in a row," he said.

"One thing has definitely changed here. Many more people are looking around, the way they would on a bus, checking out the people around them. A few told members of the staff that one person or another looked suspicious, and asked them to please check them out." For those who had decided to sit at Apropro on Friday afternoon, it was difficult to relax

and enjoy their coffee in peace. Protesters formed a ring around the cafe, chanting and carrying banners condemning terror and calling for an end to negotiations with Arafat and the Palestinian Authority.

Monitoring the protesters, and keeping a watchful eye on the cafe itself, were numerous policemen. Throughout the day, various local and international journalists

showed up to record the goings-on in the cafe a week after the attack.

And if that wasn't enough to ensure a circus atmosphere, someone chose to unload a large pile of snow in the middle of Beo-Gurion Boulevard, just opposite the cafe. The snow was a gift to the people of Tel Aviv from Moshav Neveh Aviv, which runs the Mt. Hermon ski site.

Delighted neighborhood youngsters frolicked atop the frozen hill. Passersby stopped and smiled, happy to see that the most dangerous weapons being wielded in the area this week were snowballs.

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Programme:
Mazays: Sinfonietta on Jewish Themes
Stravinsky: The Firebird
Brahms: Piano concerto no. 1

Sun. 30.3, 7:00 p.m. T-A, concert 4 Series H
Mon. 31.3, 8:30 p.m. T-A, concert 6 Series F

Mendi Rodan, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, pianist

Programme:
Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet
Shostakovich: Jazz Suite no. 1 and no. 2
Shostakovich: Thais Trot ("Tes for two")
Rachmaninov: Piano concerto no. 3

Tue. 1.4, 8:30 p.m. T-A, concert 4 Light Classical

Achinoam Nini
Gil Dor
Ilan Mochiach, conductor

Programme:
Soogs by Bach, Bernstein, Argov, Rogers and Hart and Achinoam Nini
Rachmaninov: Piano concerto no. 3

Sat. 5.4, 9:00 p.m. T-A, concert 3 Chasin & Dillencor

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Canadian court reveals Hizbullah network

OTTAWA - The arrest here of a Saudi dissident allegedly linked to a terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 US servicemen threw a spotlight this weekend on what Canadian authorities call a supportive "infrastructure" in Canada for Hizbullah.

While it is little remarked upon in Canada, authorities have known for years of fund raising and other activities that go on here in support of Moslem radicals and other violent groups, anti-terrorism experts said. The extent of the support network remains a matter of disagreement, because few details of these operations leak out of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, or CSIS.

"What is surmised is that in the past Canada has been used by some of these groups as a safe house. The premise is that there are no attacks on Canadians or Canadian assets because it is valuable (to terrorists) because of its proximity to the United States. But where's the evidence? Nobody knows but CSIS," said Janice Stein, who holds a chair in conflict management at the University of Toronto.

In a summary of evidence released Friday in support of government efforts to deport Hani Abdel Rahim Hussein al-Sayegh, accused of being a key participant in the June 1996 truck bombing, Canadian authorities reported that

"Hizbullah has established an infrastructure in Canada that can assist and support terrorists seeking a safe haven in North America. Hizbullah members in Canada receive and comply with direction from the Hizbullah leadership hierarchy in Lebanon." CSIS spokesman Gaetan Blais said terrorist support would include logistic assistance, fund raising, provision of safe houses and arms, smuggling people in and out of the United States, and providing a place for planning attacks abroad. He declined to elaborate further.

Additional documents released here in the Sayegh case provide few new details on Hizbullah operations in Canada, but they do describe Sayegh's extensive anti-government activities in Saudi Arabia.

The court records also suggest that immigration officials were suspicious of Sayegh from the day of his arrival in Canada last August. His passport was seized at the Ottawa airport after an immigration officer judged it a forgery.

Canadian court documents accuse Sayegh of scouting the bombing site, a military housing complex, before the attack and of giving the go-ahead for delivery of the truck bomb by flashing his headlights.

Joyce Yedid, Sayegh's Montreal lawyer, said there is no hard evidence of Sayegh's alleged

crimes in the documents released so far, which include more than 500 pages, mainly copies of newspaper and magazine articles, on Friday. "We'd like to get more information. At this point, it's nothing," she said.

The court file identifies Sayegh as a member of Saudi Hizbullah and says that the organization has links with Hizbullah in Lebanon. The Lebanese organization is closely allied with Iran.

Proof of Iranian involvement in the bombing could prompt a retaliatory strike by the United States, but a senior US official said the administration still does not have conclusive evidence of that.

Canada's generous immigration law, particularly toward those claiming refugee status, makes it easier for terrorism suspects to move in and out of this country undetected than in most other Western nations. A country of 30 million, Canada admits up to 215,000 immigrants annually.

In recent years, the government has been embarrassed by revelations that suspected Nazi collaborators, accused war criminals from Somalia and Rwanda, and gang members from the Caribbean made it past immigration authorities and in many cases were able to resist efforts to deport them. (Los Angeles Times)



Act of faith
Victor Caparas grimaces yesterday after a nail is driven through his palm in the village of Cutud in the Pampanga province of Manila, the Philippines, during a reenactment of the crucifixion of Jesus. Twelve people were nailed up on crosses in Cutud as part of the Good Friday celebrations. (AP)

Suicide cult death details emerge

By SCOTT LINDLAW

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The Heaven's Gate suicide cult not only shunned sex, but some males in the group, including the aging leader, had been castrated in apparent pursuit of their ideal of androgynous immortality, the medical examiner has revealed.

Dr. Brian Blackbourne said castrations' healed incisions indicated the surgeries were done long before the 39 men and women methodically killed themselves in the belief that they would take a spaceship ride in a UFO trailing the Hale-Bopp comet.

Also, toxicology results showed at least two of the victims took a less than lethal concoction of bar-

bitrates and booze, meaning that they may have been suffocated with plastic bags placed over their heads, he said.

The test results were available on only five of the cult members, and of those only three had lethal levels of phenobarbital and alcohol in their systems, Blackbourne said.

Officials also released the names of the 30 dead whose relatives have been notified. Causes of death have not been officially determined for any of them, Blackbourne said.

But Sheriff's Lt. Jerry Lipscomb said there was no suspicion of anything but suicide.

"Overdose and suffocation, self inflicted," he said.

"Nothing in this investigation that would suggest anything but." The cult members - 21 women and 18 men - apparently sedated themselves in groups, put bags over their heads and died peacefully. Their bodies were arranged in ritual fashion, arms at their sides, face and chest draped in diamond-shaped purple shrouds.

Cult members had told acquaintances that leader Marshall H. Applewhite, 66, preached celibacy, apparently as a means of denying the body as a disposable "container." Both male and female members affected a unisex look: buzz-cut hair and shapeless black shirts with Mandarin collars. People who

had contact with the members said they referred to themselves as monks.

"Some of the men have been castrated. Not all but some," Blackbourne said.

In the house, investigators discovered pictures of an idealized, dome-headed alien that the group's writings suggest they believed represents a higher plane of existence they could attain through suicide.

Families of all but nine of the dead have been notified, Blackbourne said.

Nichelle Nichols, an actress who played Lt. Uhura on the original *Star Trek*, disclosed that she lost her brother, Thomas Nichols, in the mass suicide.

60 feared dead in Albania capsizes

BRINDISI, Italy (AP) - Rescuers searched yesterday for survivors of a shipwrecked boat packed with Albanians seeking to come to Italy. The vessel collided with an Italian warship, and at least four bodies were recovered. But it appeared possible the death toll could be much higher, with RAI state radio saying it could be up to 60.

The Defense Ministry said 34 Albanians were rescued.

Some of the survivors, who reached this southern port shortly before dawn, spoke of anywhere from 70 to 150 people aboard the capsized Albanian coast guard patrol boat.

Italian coast guard, navy and police officials all declined to say how many people were feared missing. But they said the search was continuing in the rough seas of the Adriatic.

The Defense Ministry contradicted earlier reports by local officials that two of the dead were children, saying there were three women and a man.

Hopes faded as night wore on that any others aboard the capsized vessel would survive.

gave estimates between 45 and 70 people, The Defense Ministry statement said 30 people were on

weeks of chaos in Albania, many on rusted hulks packed beyond capacity.

Italian warships have been patrolling Albanian waters seeking to discourage the flight of people by turning back boats.

The vessel, an Albanian coast guard patrol boat, went down 45 miles off of the Italian coast.

Four hours later, it was unlikely any survivors would be found, said Col. Guido Capra of the tax police in Taranto. The force has naval units involved in the rescue.

"Because of the rough seas it will be very difficult to find them," he said. "But we will continue to search throughout the night." According to the Defense Ministry, the Italian navy saw the vessel at 5:15 p.m. It refused signals by the warship Zeffirio to stop, "carrying out various evasive maneuvers and continuing to head toward Italy."

The corvette Sibilla then took over surveillance and slowly approached to again try to stop the boat's progress. "In the course of this maneuver, the patrol boat carried out a sharp turn to the right, coming to intersect the path of the Sibilla," the Defense Ministry said.

The Italian ship stopped and threw its motors in reverse, "but it could not avoid the collision that caused the overturning of the Albanian vessel," it said.

Police quiz O.J. over items missing from his home

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Sheriff's deputies began removing about \$400,000 worth of art, jewelry and other items from O.J. Simpson's home this weekend, only to find the most expensive items missing.

A judge last week ordered Simpson to turn over the possessions to satisfy part of a \$33.5 million civil award.

Police said Simpson's Heisman Trophy, awarded annually to the best college football player in the nation, and other valuables were not in Simpson's home when they arrived with a moving van.

When asked where the missing articles were, police said Simpson told them he did not know.

A civil jury in February found Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. It awarded \$33.5 million in

damages to the estate of Brown and Goldman's parents, Fred Goldman and Sharon Rufo.

Earlier, police said they had permission to remove possessions from Simpson's posh estate in Brentwood, including football memorabilia such as the Heisman Trophy, a Buffalo Bills helmet, four football jerseys, and 10 commemorative footballs.

They were also taking a number of art works in the likeness of Simpson, including an Andy Warhol silkscreen entitled *O.J. Simpson*, a metal sculpture of the former football star and a large photograph.

However, when they finished going through the estate on Friday, the trophy, the Warhol silkscreen and a number of other items were not there. Also missing was a 1996 Chevrolet Suburban. Simpson has a week to produce the items.

Ciller vows to rein in Turkish Islamization

ANKARA (AP) - Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller assured the public Friday that military directives to keep Turkey secular would be implemented following signs that the Islamic wing of the coalition would resist them.

Ciller made her statement after an unscheduled meeting with Islamicist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan Friday. The

meeting followed talks earlier with Gen. Ismail Hakkı Karadayi, chief of military staff.

The National Security Council, which includes five top generals, served notice to Erbakan to implement the directives last month. They include closing down religious secondary schools, and restrictions on radical Islamic publications and broadcasts.

Jordan PM slams Albright's 'hard line' on Iraq

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan's new Prime Minister Abdul-Salam al-Majali has accused US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright of meddling in Iraqi affairs by suggesting her country could only do business with a post-Saddam Iraq.

Majali told the international Arabic newspaper *Al-Hayat* in an interview published yesterday that Albright's comments were likely to backfire and strengthen support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Majali, who took over as prime minister two weeks ago from Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti and enjoys better ties with Baghdad than his predecessor, spoke just days before King Hussein was due to meet US President Bill Clinton for talks on the Middle East.

He was reacting to a speech by Albright in which she said Saddam's aims would never be peaceful. Iraq's UN oil-for-food deal might be ended after six months, and Washington could open a dialogue with Iraq as soon as Saddam were replaced.

"There is no doubt the style Albright used was hardline," Majali said. "We in Jordan consider it unacceptable for a country, however big or small, to interfere in the internal matters of another country."

"We are wholeheartedly with the Iraqi people, and it is the people who should choose their leader," he added.

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حکومت الرشید

Diagnosing cancer through the genes

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

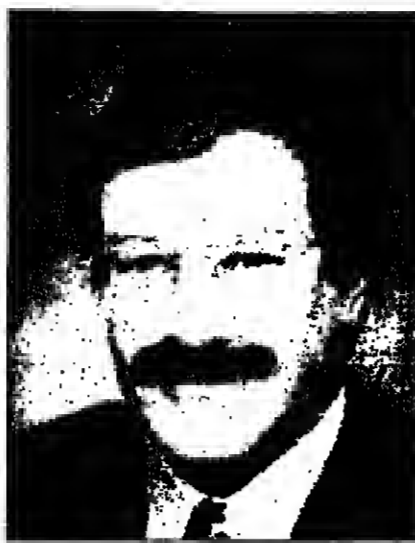
Hebrew is commonly heard in the august halls and labs of the US National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. In fact, there are more foreign researchers from Israel than from any other country except Japan, says NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner. "It's not much of an exaggeration to say that nearly every Israeli oncology researcher has been through the NCI," says Klausner, who was here recently to receive the 1997 Rabbi Shai Shacknai Memorial Prize in Immunology and Cancer Research from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School's Lautenberg Center for General and Tumor Immunology.

The 46-year-old physician, who was born in Mt. Vernon, New York, attended Sunday school as a child and knows some Hebrew, feels at home in Israel for another reason as well: he has numerous relatives here, including author Amos Oz (born Amos Klausner) who is a third cousin. He has brought his family: his psychiatrist and their two sons, aged 14 and 8.

The outstanding cancer researcher visits here quite often, as he is representative to the Middle East Cancer Consortium, which aims to promote the clinical and research against the disease in this part of the world. He says he was honored to receive the \$5,000 Shacknai which was established by New

Senator Frank Lautenberg in memory of the rabbi of his Wayne Jewish community who died of cancer at the age of 38.

Klausner studied at Yale University and then received his M.D. at Duke Medical School; after training at Massachusetts General Hospital in internal medicine, he moved to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) - the roof body of 24 different medical research institutes - and became chief of the cell biology and metabolism branch in 1984. After a decade of innovative research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, he was named director of the NCI, which is the world's most powerful position in cancer research, education, prevention and management today, thanks to its \$2.4 billion annual budget (a big chunk of the NIH's yearly \$12 billion in federal funds) and its army of 3,000 researchers. Since taking



Dr. Richard Klausner

Klausner notes that while AIDS activists have significant influence on how medical research funds will be spent, they support the cause of cancer research as well. "Many advances in AIDS care originated in NCI research. We spend \$250 million annually in AIDS research, and nearly a third of all AIDS patients will develop some kind of cancer related to their disease. Therefore, research on one disease does not come at the expense of the other."

Cancer, he says, is really an inappropriate term. "It should be cancers, in the plural. Each type of cancer affecting each tissue or organ is a different disease: in fact, breast cancer in one woman, for example, can turn out very differently than in another woman, even if it was diagnosed at the same stage." Cancers can be defined as "misbehavior" by the cell. The cause can be hereditary or environmental.

was pleased a few months ago with the announcement that the new cancer cases in the US had decreased - for the first time in 20 years - by a number of reasons: the decline in smoking of the population, compared three decades ago, and the decline in the use of addictive substances like cocaine and heroin. Lowering the incidence of cancer, we have improved the quality of life, at a stage when we are beginning to treat, and little by lit-

tle, we are offering better treatment."

However, Klausner adds, "in the next few years we will see a fundamental change, in which treatment of a certain type of cancer will be appropriate to the disease itself. This will be similar to treating specific infectious with antibiotics meant specifically for the bacteria involved." This will be advanced by the Cancer Genome Analysis Project, an offshoot of the Human Genome Project analyzing all human genes.

The cancer gene project, to be carried out at the cost of some \$20 million annually over the next three to five years, will map and identify all genes involved in cancers. Announced by the NCI two months ago, the project will look at every cancer gene and its normal counterpart and examine the difference between the altered and non-altered gene. "We will ask people around the world to contribute to a genome-wide data base. Whatever is discovered will be released freely via the Internet, which has greatly contributed in recent years to the immediate dissemination of scientific data. After isolating single cancer cells and mapping all its genes, we'll be able to arrange them on a glass slide or etched on silicon chips - which will be DNA chips, rather than the electronic chips found in a computer."

Klausner, a very open, enthusiastic researcher who knows how to explain science to general audiences in layman's terms, notes: "For 100 years,

we've been diagnosing cancers by looking under the microscope. From now on, we'll be doing so by analyzing a patient's genes. And instead of trial-and-error treatment, we'll be able to better suit the therapy to the disease."

He believes there's a bright future for scientific research in the US. "Our budget has actually been increased during the past two years by 13 percent, and the US Congress hopes to double our budget in five years. There is no talk of privatizing the NCI, even though most public hospitals are going that way. No one else can stop cancer. The government must take the lead and direct the private partners involved in research."

Regarding the sheep-cloning achievement at a private lab in Scotland that excited and shook the world a few weeks ago, Klausner says he is well familiar with Dr. Ian Wilmut, who headed the cloning team. "Ironically, Ian was at the NIH five months ago, before anyone knew about his success at cloning Dolly. We were afraid that nobody would come to the lecture, so we allocated a small room and he had a small audience. When he came here after publication of the news, we gave him the largest auditorium in the place, with 1,000 seats, and broadcast it to six overflow rooms," Klausner relates. Cloning research, being so linked to genes, will undoubtedly have implications in cancer research as well, because it involves the turning on and off of certain genes.

Marchir

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

This Thursday, starting at 1.30 hundreds of women (and some men) will march from Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Garden to Safa Square. The event is not a political protest of the left or right, nor is it a union rally demanding higher wages. They merely want the public in general, and women in particular, to be more aware of breast cancer and to know how to detect it early - and to call on the medical establishment to do more towards this end.

The Fight Against Breast Cancer Walk-a-thon will be sponsored by Hadassah-Israel with help from the Israel Cancer Organization and several other women's health groups, and held under the patronage of the Jerusalem Municipality's Council for the Advancement of Women. At the end of the march, Riki Gal will entertain in a special "donated performance" with Nira Rabinovitz as master of ceremonies.

Breast cancer and how to reduce women's odds of succumbing to it have become a major issue in the US over the past decade. In the early Nineties, a women's organization initiated a campaign, using a pink ribbon crossed under the neck as a symbol of the cause. Since then, pink enamel pins have served as a reminder, and Hadassah-Israel will be selling them at the march to increase awareness of the issue and to help cover march organizing expenses. "This event won't be a fundraiser," says Hadassah-Israel national president - and powerhouse - Hinda Gross. "There will be entertainment, films, T-shirts and educational material. Many people have donated their services, and we can use all the help we can get," she says.

Israel is far behind the US when it comes to breast-cancer awareness, even though the risk is as high here (the lifetime risk is one in nine women) as among American women or even higher (as 5% to 10% of breast cancers are inherited by the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, which is relatively common among Jewish women of Ashkenazi origin).

minimal procedure.

But then, seven years later, an entirely different cancer was discovered in the same breast (it had not metastasized from the initial tumor), and she decided to have a mastectomy, including the removal of lymph glands. Then cancer was discovered in the other breast too, and she had lost both of her breasts, wearing

Hadassah-Israel organized a breast-cancer awareness day at the Prime Minister's Office a while ago. "People in the office warned us that many staffers were unlikely to want to hear about it and undergo an examination. And indeed, there were few present when Dr. Tamara Peretz of Hadassah's Sharet Institute began her talk. But soon, those who were

"Men want their women to be healthy and they care."

As for Hadassah-Israel, the next campaign the voluntary organization will launch is one to reduce smoking, especially in the workplace. And since smoking causes many types of cancers, and even has a link to breast cancer, there is nothing more natural for this health-oriented organization.



Cesareans constitute 15 percent of all deliveries in Israel.

(Elihu Harati)

HEALTH SCAN

Too many cesareans

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

The number of cesarean sections can be cut nearly in half without endangering mothers or their babies, according to Dr. Haim Yaffe, director of obstetrics at Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital. In recent years, cesareans constitute as many as 15 percent of all deliveries in the country, even though many of them are not required for medical reasons.

Establishing a dialogue with pregnant women and giving them personal attention is enough to increase the number of vaginal births at the expense of the abdominal operations. Delivering a baby by cesarean increases the chances that the woman's next pregnancy ends with another cesarean delivery, Yaffe says.

In 1995/6 at Bikur Holim, of 507 women who had a cesarean, 453 were offered the choice of a VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean). Of these, 90 percent had a regular delivery. Of 66 women who had had two cesareans in the past, 49 had the surgery for a third delivery, and 13 had a vaginal delivery.

Due to the hospital's special effort, only 8.4 percent of the women in the hospital's obstetrics department had a cesarean delivery - a little more than half the average rate nationally. When patients are properly chosen, a vaginal birth after a previous cesarean delivery reduces complications in the mother, speeds recovery and reduces hospital costs, Yaffe insists.

CLOSING HEART'S HOLES

For the first time here, Israeli surgeons have used a speedy new technique developed in North Carolina to repair one of the most difficult congenital defects possible in an infant's heart. The patient, a six-month old girl born to a Jerusalem couple, had a defect called "a complete atrial-ventricular canal, a ventricular septal defect, an aortic septal defect and a common atrial-ventricular valve." This, according to Hadassah-University Hospital cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Amir Elami, means that there was a hole in the wall between the auricles and the ventricles and only a single valve between them rather than the normal two.

The technique was first presented at a conference of heart surgeons in California a few weeks ago, and so far, only 12 babies have undergone the procedure in the US. Instead of using a patch to correct the defect, the surgeons close the hole directly while simultaneously dividing the joint valve into two, without cutting

or deforming either of them. Elami says the operation drastically cut surgery time down to two-and-a-half hours and reduced the amount of time the baby had to be on a heart-lung machine, thereby shortening recovery time. The Ein Kerem hospital diagnoses five to 10 such cases a year, and in the whole country, there are about two dozen annually.

HAIR TODAY, NOT GONE TOMORROW

The drug that treats genetically caused hair loss and balding in men and women, whose generic name is minoxidil, is now available without a doctor's prescription. The Health Ministry decided recently to allow the sale of the solution, Minoxidim (from the Triama company), Regaine (imported from Pharmacia & Upjohn) and Hairgain (manufactured here by Agis), as over-the-

counter drugs.

Minoxidil is an active ingredient in a cardiac drug taken in pill form. Doctors noticed that the medication caused hair to grow on the heads of many patients. After it was tested as a topical solution or gel in a lower concentration (2 percent) and found to be safe, it was approved for prescription to men and then later to women. When used daily, it halts hair loss in about 80 percent of patients and causes new growth in about 40 percent of them; but when patients stop using it on their scalps, the new hair eventually drops out. The cost of the imported product is NIS 200 for 60 cubic centimeters, and about NIS 164 for the locally made products. It is not subsidized by the health funds. The US Food and Drug Administration decided a year ago to allow minoxidil's sale as an over-the-counter drug.

Rx FOR READERS

Battling against bacteria in the kitchen

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Whenever I wipe up in the kitchen, I wonder whether sponges and dishcloths, which are usually wet, are breeding grounds for bacteria. One can't use disposable paper towels every time. Are nylon-bristled brushes safer for washing dishes? Is it safe to wipe a table with a sponge over and over? Should they be put in the microwave from time to time? Is there an alternative?

R.S., Netanya.

Dr. Shoshana Weissman, microbiologist and director of Haifa's Institute for Food Microbiology and Consumer Goods, comments:

You are absolutely right. Sponges and dishcloths can be full of bacteria, and the risk is especially high if they come into contact with raw meat, fish or poultry, which are likely to have salmonella.

What I do at home, and what I recommend, is to wash them after each use with hot water and detergent. Once a week or two, pour some chlorine bleach (economical) on them in the sink and let it be absorbed; then wash them out thoroughly. There is no problem of them being poisonous if you follow this routine. Dishwashing detergent is not antiseptic, but it doesn't let bac-

teria thrive. Replace sponges and dishcloths as often as you can. The risk of bacterial infections is the highest for babies, the elderly and people with weak immune systems.

I find it inconvenient and uncomfortable to use nylon-bristled brushes to clean dishes, but they can be affected by bacteria as well. I don't recommend putting sponges in the microwave: although 80-degree-Centigrade heat will kill them, I'm not sure whether the heat will penetrate inside as well.

I am a 50-year-old religious woman and going into menopause. I'm reluctant to take hormone replacement therapy because it can cause periodic bleeding and thus requires me to continue going to the ritual bath once a month. I heard there is a new type of HRT drug, Kligest, that claims not to cause bleeding. Is this true? How does it avoid it? B.T., Jerusalem.

Dr. Rahel Adatto-Levy, deputy director-general of Shaare Zedek Hospital and a senior gynecologist there, answers:

One doesn't have to have periodic bleeding from hormone-replacement therapy anymore. Kligest, which has been available for several years, prevents bleeding in menopausal women by including progesterone



(Andre Brummann)

and estrogen that are taken in a different order from conventional HRT pills. But any gynecologist who is asked to prevent bleeding can prescribe ordinary HRT pills and change the order in which they're taken, which will solve the problem.

Perhaps not all gynecologists are aware of this issue among religious women; but we who take care of this community are well aware of the fact that some of them who are good

candidates for HRT refuse to take it because it can cause bleeding, especially during the first year or two that it's taken. After that, it's more like spotting than a regular period, but that too requires them to go to the ritual bath even though they are no longer fertile.

Some women, however, prefer the bleeding, because psychologically they feel younger by continuing to have a period.

over items home

Jordan PM slams Albright's 'hard line' on Iraq

Reasons for... Jordan PM slams Albright's 'hard line' on Iraq... The Jerusalem Post Sunday, March 30, 1997

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Albanian rescue mission

The rapid decision of the United Nations Security Council to approve some form of European intervention force for Albania may be a welcome sign that at last Europe and the UN have learned a lesson from the Bosnian war. The lesson is that if outsiders are going to be drawn into a country's internal collapse anyway, they are better off going in sooner rather than later.

The proposed multinational force will have extremely limited aims—as it should do—mainly the protection of food aid. It is not yet clear if it will be empowered to disarm the various gangs roaming the lawless country, but it certainly will have enough teeth and determination to defend itself if attacked. Perhaps the most important role of the force is a psychological one—not only for the wretched Albanians but for the European Union. For Albanians, it demonstrates that European leaders expressing concern appear to mean it and will back up the usually empty words with action. However minimal, some action is always preferable to none, providing the objectives and execution are clear and decisive.

For Europeans, the chance to take action in a crisis on their doorstep without running off crying to Washington is a long overdue development. The European Union has been compared to a shiny and elegant Rolls Royce with the engine of a lawn-mower—the engine being EU foreign policy. This time the Americans have promised moral and political backing, but apart from that, it should be a European solution to the latest European post-Cold War problem.

Italy deserves most of the praise for getting the idea of intervening in Albania before the Security Council but of course cynics will say altruism is far from the Italian government's mind—it simply wants the anarchy of its poverty-stricken neighbor sorted out before Italy's own poor south is overwhelmed by tens of thou-

sands of penniless and semi-educated Albanian refugees. Be that as it may, good actions, as long as they are legal, can be born from less than idealistic motives, and this 2,500-strong intervention force is an excellent action.

Albania has been quieter for a couple of weeks after the turmoil that followed the collapse of government authority and massive demonstrations calling for the removal of the worse than useless president, Sali Berisha, but a new upsurge of violence over the weekend demonstrated that the UN decision comes none too soon. Outlaw gangs are establishing the rule of banditry across the country despite efforts by self-appointed rebel town councils to keep some semblance of order. With the bandits robbing their neighbors of what few possessions they still have, the task of getting international aid quickly and fairly distributed would be well-nigh impossible without the military protection provided by the impartial European force.

Any dangers faced by the force are likely to come from disorganized violence rather than direct attack. Most of the military's weapons have been seized by the people who raided depots up and down the country but, as Italy's UN envoy Paulo Fulci, said "If you feed people they will be less nervous than on an empty stomach." The UN estimates Albania has about a week of food and medicine left, but getting the most basic supplies in should not be a problem. The real problem remains not in giving Albanians fish, but fishing rods.

In size and population, Albania is no bigger than Ireland. But in terms of infrastructure and development it is like an Ireland stuck in the early 19th century. Getting it to even look like a modern European country is going to take a long haul rather than a quick fix and it is by no means certain the country or its rulers have the talent or the stomach for that.

Cults of death

The latest mass suicide of misguided cultists may demonstrate that the task of predicting or preventing such slaughter remains well-nigh impossible. It also demonstrates that the gap between human science and human understanding appears to be widening at an alarming rate.

What strikes one about the beliefs of these otherwise intelligent and well-educated cultists was their near comic-book naivete. These were people who, while living at the end of the 20th century and working as designers of high-tech web sites for the Internet, believed in a religion that amounted to "Jesus as Captain Kirk on a comet" and thought it was worth dying for.

This is what makes the driving force of cultism

so difficult to understand. It is easy to assume that intelligent people who study ideas and who work in high technology or advanced sciences are about as stable members of society as anyone could find within the limits of human frailty. Apparently not. People scientific enough to track the incoming Hale-Bopp comet were yet stupid enough to believe this perfectly natural, if spectacular, cosmic phenomenon was shepherding in an alien mother-ship just to pick up 39 New Age cuckoos from an obscure Californian house.

It is as sad as it was tragic. And unfortunately, as the end of the Christian second millennium approaches with traditional Western belief systems in tatters, it is probably not the last we shall bear of the suicide cults.



Top jobs

DOV B. LEVY

That American Jews work in the US State Department must be exciting news for *The Washington Post*. Two recent major stories highlighted the Jewish background of Dennis Ross, Martin Indyk, Aaron Miller, Stuart Eizenstat, and others holding important positions at State.

"This is offensive as hell," commented the American writer Larry Rothstein. "Twelve Episcopalians or Catholics in all the top jobs would not rate a second thought, let alone a story."

Still, I savored the stories because it showed the change since I started my US work career in 1962, when the State Department (and the CIA and FBI) was virtually closed to Jews.

The Washington Post got it right when it said: "[Ross, et al.] have broken the decades-long Arabist lock on Middle East policy, and punctured the State Department's conventional wisdom that one cannot be a committed Jew and a trusted broker."

I joined the Anti-Defamation League as assistant director in Michigan. Like many US Jews who chose to work in civil rights, I learned that job discrimination against Jews was rampant in the private sector too.

The ADL had just finished a study showing that only 231 Jews were employed in the big three auto companies, out of an administrative and technical staff of tens of thousands.

The auto company heads, when confronted, sang the old refrain: Jews don't want to work in large organizations with the constraints of bureaucratic life; they want to be lawyers, doctors and small businessmen. (Never mind that tens of thousands were school teachers, social workers, nurses, and worked in large organizations where they had opportunity and a reasonably fair chance.)

Those US Jews who refused to take exclusion for an answer paved the way for others

Now 35 years later, Jewish names are sprinkled through the auto companies and most corporate giants, as well as the State Department.

HOW and why? Following World War II the US enjoyed an unprecedented expansion which has continued, for the most part, until today.

Giant organizations emerged in almost all sectors: technology, aerospace, manufacturing, retailing. The sheer size and bottom-line demand for profit pushed organizations—some faster, some slower—toward meritocracy rather than organized discrimination against Jews.

The incredible population movement west and south from the traditional New York and East Coast habitats of Jews opened job opportunities and made identification of Jews by geography less likely.

You had Jews whose names were anglicized by immigration authorities between 1880 and 1920, and Jews who thought it prudent to change or shorten their names before the 1960s. And factoring in the intermarriage that has produced non-Jews with Jewish names, "What's in a name?" has become a game that Jew-haters can no longer win.

America has had a senator-presidential candidate named Goldwater, and secretaries of defense named Weinberger, and one Cohen. None were Jewish. Indeed, less than 40 out of 500 Kissingers in the US are Jews.

On the other hand, no biggie would single out Emily Knickerbocker from Boston, Jenny Smith from North Carolina, or Michael Harris from Iowa as Jewish, which is what they are.

Not to be discouraged were the efforts of the ADE, American Jewish Committee, and other Jewish organizations—along with the NAACP, Urban League, and many progressive segments of the Christian churches—who lobbied, educated, marched, and demonstrated, seeking state and federal legislation banning racial and religious discrimination in employment.

Finally, individual Jews refused to take exclusion for an answer. They sought out jobs where Jews had not trodden, and, once successful, made it much more likely that other Jewish aspirants would follow.

That's how and why the State Department got to where it is today. The US is better off for it.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMOKING IN ISRAEL

Sir, — My daughter and I recently returned from a most enjoyable visit to Israel. I was astounded and appalled however, by the amount of cigarette smoking that we saw.

I was dismayed that many of the cigarette brands that we saw were supplied by American companies. This is sad because cigarettes are as deadly as cocaine; the ill effects just take a longer time to manifest themselves. Although the US has declared war on cocaine producers, prohibiting its importation and use in this country, it condones and encourages the use of tobacco products abroad.

The progressive debilitating effects of tobacco use affect not only the lungs, but the entire respiratory system. Tobacco toxins damage the heart and blood vessels. The morbidity and mortality of tobacco use are unbelievably devastating. Not only are the individual users affected—like alcoholics—but entire families.

In April 1996, the American Medical Association called tobacco a "ruinous and enslaving product that has brought misery, disease, anguish and death."

SOL SHAZ, M.D.
Rockville, Maryland.

YEARNING FOR PEACE

Sir, — I have recently arrived from London for a three-week visit to Jerusalem. I find it rather disturbing that my visit comes just when everyone has entered this never-ending spiral of violence, thus putting our dreams of trying to create a common ground for work and cooperation through constructive dialogue at the disposal of politicians.

Our organization, which is the first Jewish/Christian/Moslem student organization in the United Kingdom, was formed last year in an effort to bridge the gaps between the followers of the three religions of the Abrahamic tradition. Our members, who come from across the cultural, social and political spectrums of their countries, believe that dialogue between the peoples is the only way to achieve peace and stability through proper understanding of one another. As Prince

Hassan bin Talal said: "It is ignorance, misunderstanding and fear which render men apart." Mutual understanding is especially needed at this time when, unfortunately, all parties lack politically competent leaders, with the possible exception of one or two across the river.

During my visit, I shall be meeting several Jewish, Christian and Moslem leaders including President Ezer Weizman. I sincerely hope that this unnecessary and dangerous episode of tension will be the last, reminding everyone of what Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yohai once said: "Peace is great, for all blessings are contained in it."

GHANEM M. NUSEIBEH,
President,
Middle East Students' Union
in the United Kingdom,
Jerusalem.

ITV ENGLISH NEWS

Sir, — It is commendable that a business or organization choose to cut back on overheads, but not when the result is reduced service to the customer.

Why not put English subtitles on the regular Hebrew evening news? We English speakers who need local news in our native tongue can read. We want Israel's news in English, but it is not necessary for

it to be provided by our own team of English journalists or newscasters. One good translator should cost considerably less, and we English speakers would be better off by getting almost one hour of news, rather than the current 10 or 15 minutes.

JEANYNE WHITMONT SEKEL,
Mevasseret Zion.

THE RIGHT TO OBSERVE SHABBAT

Sir, — On behalf of the Masorti Movement, I wish to express our strong objection to the threats made against the Africa-Israel Company because of the company's decision not to open the Ramat Aviv Mall on Shabbat. It is unheard of that, in the Jewish State, a Jew wishing to observe Shabbat by keeping his business closed should be hounded and threatened with legal action and boycotts. Were such a thing to be done in any other country, all Jewish groups would protest it as the height of antisemitism and persecution of the free exercise of

one's religion. Indeed, throughout the ages, Jews have fought for the right to observe Shabbat and have made great sacrifices, financial and otherwise, to preserve the sanctity of Shabbat. The only decrees made forcing Jews to violate Shabbat were by Antiochus and later by the Romans. How ironic that Tel Aviv should now join this august company.

We in the Masorti Movement have always fought against religious coercion, but we are equally strong in our stand against anti-religious coercion and we urge all like-minded groups, such as

Hemdat, the Center for Religious Pluralism and the Civil Liberties Association, to stand with Africa-Israel in its battle to observe Shabbat.

Jews everywhere, whether they observe Shabbat or not, should unite in defending the right of Jews all over the world and certainly in the State of Israel to observe Shabbat according to their beliefs. That is an elementary right which must be preserved.

RABBI REUVEN HAMMER,
Masorti (Conservative)
Movement,
Jerusalem.

als by the warship Zeffuro to stop.

CHILD VOWS TO JOIN

POSTSCRIPTS

AN ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD honor student who packed a knife in her lunch box to cut a piece of chicken was suspended and arrested on charges of bringing a weapon to school.

"Mom was busy, and dad had

gone to work," Charlotte Kirk said, explaining how she packed the smooth-edge knife with her leftover peas, chicken and apple.

The sixth-grader from Columbia, South Carolina, said she never even took the knife out of her lunch

box. She asked a teacher if it was OK to use it and was told "no" and got a lecture. The teacher then told the principal, who called the police.

As she was leaving school with her father, she was arrested. She was later suspended. Charlotte was ordered to go to Family Court on the criminal charge later.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



You never feel lonely in this lady's shop. She's a Beijing dealer in store mannequins whose Chinese customers don't seem to mind the distinctly Western look of the window dressings. (Reuter)

Don't
Bless

مركزنا العربي

ON CAMERA

Photography as art

By DAVID BRAUNER

A significant part of the work in *The Jerusalem Post* Photo Archives is selecting which photos to file for posterity. One of the determining tests for "keepers" is: "Does the photograph read?" In other words, is the picture the visual counterpart of a well-written news story or a clear, objective record of the event? If newspaper photo archivists were photography curators, the "unreadable" images might look very different, possibly like art.

Art photography and painting share the same great themes: nature, portraits, the nude, still life, and the abstract. The goals are also the same: to go beyond faithful representation, to capture a heightened reality and, perhaps, redefine art itself.

Just as painters will use any means or medium at their disposal to create, photographers too will reach deeply into their bag of tricks (lenses, filters, double negatives, darkroom magic) to pursue their artistic calling.

From its birth, photography has been considered an upstart, an intruder, a threat to art. French poet Charles Baudelaire denounced photography as painting's "mortal enemy."

Early photography, particularly portraiture and landscapes, slavishly copied the established formality of fine-art painters. Over the years, a rapprochement developed in the rivalry between the

older and newer art form. Painter Eugene Delacroix regretted that photography had not been invented earlier and used photographs as visual aids, as did Turner and later Picasso. The impressionists, declared photographer Alfred Stieglitz, "adhere to a style of composition that is strictly photographic."

Avant-garde artist-photographer Man Ray said, "I photograph what I do not wish to paint and paint what I cannot photograph." Pop artist Andy Warhol created a can of Campbell's tomato soup and a portrait of Marilyn Monroe to look exactly like photographs.

In fact, contemporary art switches back and forth between painting and photography. In the essay "Photographic Evangels" in her book *On Photography*, Susan Sontag goes even further: "Painting did not so much turn to abstraction as adopt the camera's eye, becoming telescopic, microscopic, and photoscopic in structure."

Our inquiry into photographic art would not have been possible before a recent visit to Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda neighborhood. I was "on assignment" for our newly formed photo club. The Sabbath was fast approaching, when an old bicycle wheel and bedframe suspended from a high porch arrested my attention.

I framed the picture and released the shutter several times, all in the knowledge that the resulting image would not "read." Throughout the

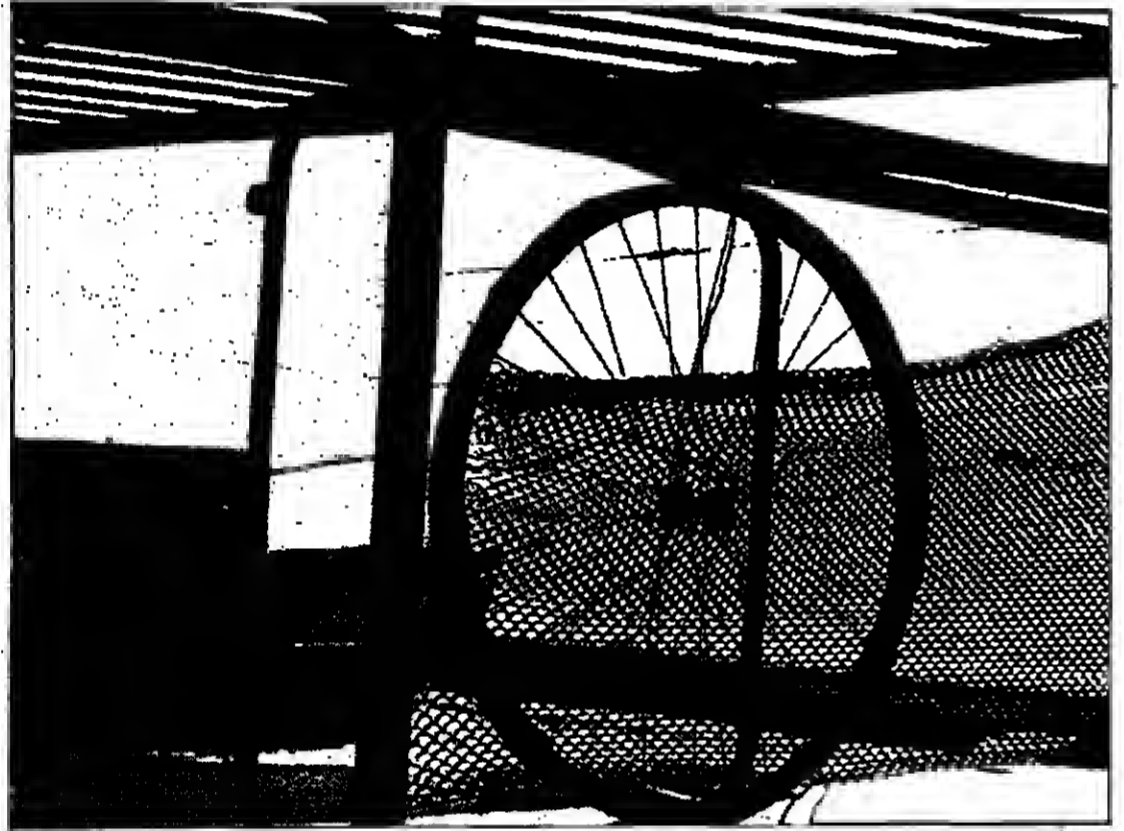
processing, I hoped that the abstraction I saw would translate into a photograph. I think it did.

As a result, though I hardly consider myself an artist, I've consciously decided to seek out abstractions in my photography. "Like language," again quoting Sontag's essay, "it [photography] is a medium in which works of art (among other things) are made."

Most of us own and use a camera. The camera is viewed merely as a conduit between the eye and the image. But the same camera that takes snaps of the children or holiday souvenirs or wedding keepsakes can also create works of art. Henri Cartier-Bresson observed that "the discovery of oneself is made concurrently with the discovery of the world around us."

A photograph of something beautiful (or ugly) is not the same as a beautiful photograph. For the latter, the creative urges have to flow through the eye of camera. One has to "will" the picture to come out. Or as art photographer Gary Winogrand puts it, "I photograph to find out what something will look like photographed."

Taking photographs that ask questions, rather than photographs that give answers, involves a creative "system of visual editing," in the words of photo historian John Szarkowski. "Answer pictures" of the family and holidays belong in albums; images that question the beholder belong in frames and on walls.



Old bicycle wheel suspended from a porch in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda neighborhood. (David Brauner)

HEADS 'N TAILS

Don't confuse watchdog with guard dog

By D'YORA BEN SHAHIN

I have the impression that very few people have any idea of the difference between a watchdog and a guard dog.

I, for instance, have a very effective canine companion and she is a watchdog.

What does this mean? It means that no one, absolutely no one, whether human or animal, can approach the place where we reside without a very definite response from this small dog. She weighs just a little bit less than five kilograms and I seriously doubt if she could win a battle with a strand of cooked spaghetti.

But despite this, my dog ensures that I can never be taken

by surprise by anyone or anything that happens within 30 meters of my home.

This is a watchdog. A real guard dog is a totally different matter. A guard dog is required to actually prevent the entrance of intruders. This means that it has to be big enough for the job and trained to do it.

But keeping a trained guard dog is a very serious responsibility. A trained guard dog that can and will attack with or without a direct command is the equivalent of keeping a loaded gun beside you and not always under your direct control.

The real question comes with the matter of intent, need and responsibility. Do you really need a guard dog? Can you take

responsibility for training it? How can you be responsible for it 24 hours a day? Remember that a trained guard dog does not automatically recognize Aunt Ida who turns up unexpectedly or the friend your child brings home.

These are serious questions and they are questions that every person who contemplates the presence of a trained guard dog must answer.

Most people will be well served by a watchdog, a dog of any size or breed that faithfully warns the occupant that there are unauthorized intruders within a certain space.

However, if you still prefer to own a guard dog then you would be well advised to have good third-party insurance.

Kibbutz moves up a degree

There was a time, not so many decades ago, when a university degree was considered suspect on kibbutz. What would the early pioneers have made, then, of the university-accredited Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, a private teaching and research center, which opened its doors on Kibbutz Keura last September?

The institute offers a one-year program in environmental studies, which brings together Jewish, Christian and Moslem Middle Eastern students with their English-speaking Western counterparts. The goal is to develop a regional perspective on the environmental problems threatening our corner of the world, by developing a cadre of young scientists and policy-makers on both sides of the border who can work together.

Thirty-two students, including Palestinians, Jordanians and Egyptians, are attending a wide range of courses this semester related to environmental policy, science and ethics. The courses focus on an interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues impacting the Arava desert and the Red Sea around Eilat, a half-hour drive south of Keura. Some of the issues already being explored are wildlife captive breeding and repatriation, coral preservation, sustainable agriculture and desertification. Students are registered at Tel Aviv University, and receive TAU transcripts for all course work and internships completed through the institute.

Those are the facts. But they don't convey the institute's casual kibbutz atmosphere, radically different from the usual university experience.

The institute's administration is housed in a trailer. The door is open, and students and teachers come and go as they please. Notices are written on a blackboard outside, and may include sign-up for compost collection, or notice of a kibbutz harvest, in addition to the expected class changes or homework additions. Their computer center is in a bomb shelter.

Students live in kibbutz housing, eat in the communal dining hall, and are integrated into the settlement's daily social life. That has proved an eye-opener for Palestinian student Hashem Shahin, a research assistant in the biology lab at Bethlehem University.

"When I came here in February, I thought it would be a settlement filled with people carrying guns," he says. "I had no idea what a kibbutz was. It was a nice surprise."

Shahin and three other Palestinians were meant to begin their studies at Keura last September, but their entry permits were canceled in the aftermath of the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit in Jerusalem.

"The objective barriers to bringing in Palestinian students are formidable, especially from Gaza," notes Institute academic director Alon Tal, a founder and chair of the Israeli Union for Environmental Defense, who also teaches environmental law and policy at Tel Aviv University. "The Foreign Ministry was very helpful, and we turned to some top generals we know."

This semester, the institute's second, there are three Palestinian, four Jordanian and two Egyptian students. Tal notes there were a large number of Jordanian applicants, although fewer Egyptians. "I take my hat off to them all," he remarks. "These are people not only concerned about the environment, but willing to brave the stigma of studying in Israel. They are putting themselves at personal and professional risk when they cross the border."

Shahin's field work is in microbiology. He is participating in a project at the Yotvata research station on using treated sewage water for crop irrigation, testing the water and produce grown for fecal residue and other contaminants. He hopes the results can be used to help Palestinians farm more effectively.



Hands on learning: Students from Israel, Jordan and Egypt study the desert environment through Tel Aviv University's program in the Arava. (Ronit Sofer)

At Kibbutz Ketura, Jewish, Christian and Moslem students from the Middle East are learning how to protect their corner of the world through a new environmental studies program, Sue Fishkoff reports

He will resume his former position at Bethlehem University next year — or sooner, if his student visa isn't renewed for the fall semester. Shahin has become very popular in his few months on the kibbutz, and has recently begun offering free Arabic classes to kibbutz members.

Yan Shao-Qian ordinarily works as a chemist in the development division of the China Rural Development Technology Center in his native Beijing. Now he helps grow desert-resistant plants in the institute's experimental farm, hoping to learn lessons he can take back to China.

"We know nothing about kibbutz in China," he says. "There are many new drought- and saline-resistant plants being developed here, some of which could do well in China."

Shao-Qian is on a full-year scholarship at Keura, the result of last year's visit to Beijing by kibbutz member Dr. Elaine Solowey, a leading expert in alternative desert agriculture, affiliated with the Sde Boker campus at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Solowey has been running the kibbutz's experimental orchard for more than a decade. She is growing 180 different plants, six of which show "great promise" for commercial cultivation, she says. One of those is the pitaya, a 600- to 800-gram cross between a kiwi and a melon, which will be on the market later this summer. Institute students work with her plants as part of classwork, as well as through internship projects.

Although the institute was originally conceived along the lines of American universities' "junior year abroad," for undergraduate credit

it's turned out that many of the students already have undergraduate degrees. Tal says the school is negotiating with institutions ranging from the American University in Cairo to Stanford University in California, trying to develop a masters' degree program whereby students would spend their first year on Ketura, and their second year at the university that would eventually issue their masters' degree.

Practical environmental work is a big part of the curriculum, Tal notes. "This is not a value-neutral program," he states. "It's a program to train environmental activists and policy-makers." Student field projects have included bird conservation, recycling, and protection of the Red Sea.

The work is hands-on, and aimed at improving quality of life for local residents, including the kibbutz community. Students recently started a composting project at Keura. They handle all the logistics, from collecting garbage door-to-door, to

storing and utilizing the finished product.

DESPITE ITS emphasis on practical ecological work, the institute does not operate in an ideological void. Ketura has been involved in alternative approaches to Judaism since its founding in 1973, when it became the first non-Orthodox kibbutz in the country to build a synagogue.

Friday night and holiday services are usually led by kibbutz members — male and female. In 1987, the kibbutz won a \$10,000 Speaker of the Knesset Prize in recognition of its pluralist atmosphere; it used the money to create the Kerem Kolot foundation, which runs Jewish study programs focusing on the desert.

Not surprisingly, the kibbutz's openness to Jewish tradition has carried over into the institute's curriculum. Jewish text and traditions related to the environment form a key part of the academic program, particularly those that stress human responsibility for protecting the natural world.

One recent morning, Rabbi Michael Cohen was leading his "Judaism and the Environment" class. Cohen, who is taking a year-long sabbatical from his Reconstructionist congregation in Manchester, Vermont, was leading six students through a discussion of the environmental imperative contained in the first six psalms of the Kabbalat Shabbat prayer service.

"There is a notion here that a cosmic order exists, that God can be discovered through Nature," he urges. "It's not humanity versus nature, but one interconnected uni-

"When I came here I thought it would be a settlement filled with people carrying guns."

—Palestinian student Hashem Shahin

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Israel lose to USA by 7 wickets

Israel's Paul Smith (l) fails to catch USA's Fiod Bacchus's deflection during their International Cricket Council Trophy match in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday. Bacchus scored an unbeaten 33 as the USA beat Israel by seven wickets. Scores: Israel 105 all out in 47 overs; USA 108/3 in 24.1 overs. Israel face Gibraltar today in the final match.

No. 1-to-be Hingis tops Seles; Bruguera upsets Sampras

KEY BISCAYNE (AP) — Martina Hingis needed just 44 minutes to beat Monica Seles 6-2, 6-1 yesterday and win the women's title at the Lipton Championships. Hingis kept Seles on the run and out of position from the start, winning the opening set in 19 minutes. Seles was hurt by six double faults, and the timing of her groundstrokes was repeatedly disrupted by the variety of Hingis's shots. The result had no bearing on this week's computer rankings. Win or lose, the 16-year-old Hingis was assured of becoming the youngest No. 1 player in history of the WTA Tour tomorrow. Steffi Graf, who missed Lipton with a knee injury, will fall from first to second in the rankings. Hingis improved to 26-0 this year. She won her fifth tournament

title and to exceed the \$1 million mark for the year. Seles was playing in her first tournament this year since suffering a broken finger in December. Thomas Muster will complete a comeback when he plays Sergi Bruguera of Spain in the women's final today. Bruguera advanced by upsetting Pete Sampras 5-7, 7-6(7-2), 6-4 in Friday's semifinals. The top-ranked Sampras, off to the fastest start of his career, lost for only the second time in 22 matches this year. Thirty minutes after the defeat, he slumped in a chair and stared at the ceiling. "On hardcourt, it's a match I should win nine times out of 10," he said. Bruguera became the first Spaniard to reach a men's final in the Lipton. His opponent, second-

ranked Muster, made it an all-European final by beating Jim Courier 6-3, 6-4. The pairing ends a streak: USA meo had won the past seven Lipton titles. Until this year, Muster had advanced beyond the third round at Key Biscayne only once — when he beat Yannick Noah in the 1989 semifinals, then missed the final because of an accident with a drunken driver that nearly ended his career. "This is the justice I've been waiting for," said Muster. Bruguera, a two-time French Open champion ranked 35th, has never won a title before April, when the clay-court season begins. He has never won a tournament in the USA. "He played pretty aggressive," Sampras said. "I'm the one that should be setting the tone."

England beat Mexico in soccer friendly

WEMBLEY (AP) — Robbie Fowler's up-and-down week ended on a high with his first goal for England yesterday in a 2-0 friendly victory over Mexico. The Liverpool striker, scorer of 28 goals for his club this season, received high praise from FIFA Tuesday for his sportsmanship for trying to persuade a referee he hadn't been fouled for a penalty during a vital league game. Two days later he was fined by UEFA for displaying a T-shirt supporting striking dockworkers while he was playing to a European Cup Winners Cup match. In exhibition play against Mexico, Fowler marked his sixth goal in international colors by heading his first goal in the 55th minute with his team already a goal ahead at Wembley to give England a comfortable victory

before some 49,00 fans. Mexico, rival to the USA in trying to gain places in the World Cup from the CONCACAF area, fielded its strongest available lineup, the 11 that started its last qualifying game against Costa Rica. Teddy Sheringham fired England ahead from the penalty spot in the 18th minute after good approach work by Newcastle's Robert Lee. Lee's pass to Sheringham split the Mexican defense and, although the Spurs striker was tackled by Pavel Pardo, the ball ran to the supporting Paul lace. The Inter Milan midfielder, captain of the England team in the absence of the injured Alan Shearer and Tony Adams, was about to shoot when Pardo swept away his legs and Portuguese referee Victor Melo Pereira pointed to the spot.

Red Wings defeat slumping Sabres

DETROIT (AP) — Larry Murphy scored 3:10 into overtime Friday night, giving the Detroit Red Wings a 2-1 win over the slumping Buffalo Sabres. Murphy's winning goal came on a shot from the right point just inside the blue line. It deflected off goalie Steve Shields' right pad and went between his legs, extending Detroit's home unbeaten streak to eight (7-0-1). Shields stopped 39 shots, but Buffalo still fell to 1-4 since All-Star goalie Dominik Hasek suffered a broken rib. Red Wing goalie Mike Vernon, who earned his 300th career win Wednesday in an overtime game against Colorado, made 21 saves. Mighty Ducks 4, Blackhawks 3. Mike Leclerc, playing in his first NHL game, and Paul Kariya each had a goal and an assist as visiting Anaheim attempts to capture a playoff position in the

Western Conference. J.J. Daigneault and Brian Bellows also scored for Anaheim, which is 3-0 against Chicago. The Ducks have a 75-72 lead in points over Chicago and moved into sixth place in the Western Conference. Sharks 4, Oilers 3. Owen Nolan and Darren Turcotte each scored two goals, leading San Jose to a home win. For San Jose, it was a rare win over Oilers goaltender Curtis Joseph, who entered the game with an 18-2 lifetime record against the Sharks. Friday's results: Detroit 2, Buffalo 1; Anaheim 4, Chicago 3; San Jose 4, Edmonton 3. Thursday's results: N.Y. Islanders 6, Boston 3; New Jersey 4, N.Y. Rangers 0; Hartford 5, Tampa Bay 2; Ottawa 3, Florida 2; St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1; Toronto 1, Phoenix 1.

Gordie Howe's comeback attempt canceled

SYRACUSE (Reuter) — The comeback attempt of hockey icon Gordie Howe at the age of 69 was put on hold Thursday, the American Hockey League Syracuse Crunch said. Howe, who turns 69 tomorrow, had hoped to play for the Crunch Tuesday against the Carolina Monarchs — an outing that would have made the man they call Mr. Hockey the only professional ice hockey player to play in six consecutive decades. The comeback attempt, however, was put off by the Crunch due to their current slump. "Based on everything that has happened with the team, we feel it is best to cancel Gordie's attempt to make sports history," Crunch president Howard Dolgon said. "The fact that the team has won only twice in its last 18 games putting a once sure playoff position in jeopardy is the reason we have reached this decision. Our team's playoff position will come down to the last few games of the season." Howe said he was "deeply disappointed" about not being able to play Tuesday. "I will however be in Syracuse to support the Crunch and help in anyway I can to make this team better. I am still

hoping to fulfill my dream of playing in a sixth decade at some future date." Howe, regarded by many to be the greatest player in the history of the sport, retired from the NHL in 1980 at the age of 52. His career, which spanned an unprecedented 32 seasons, began with the Detroit Red Wings in 1946 and lasted long enough for him to skate with his sons Mark and Marty as teammates. Howe is second all-time to Wayne Gretzky with 801 career NHL goals. Combining his years in the World Hockey Association, Howe has scored 1,071 goals and amassed 2,589 points. The 1996-97 season commemorates the 50th anniversary of Howe's first pro contract in 1946-47. "We have been overwhelmed and touched by the tremendous show of support from fans across North America who believe Gordie can make a return to professional hockey at the age of 69," said Howe's wife Colleen. "It's not going to happen Tuesday, but we know that Mr. Hockey will someday have the opportunity to set a record for playing in six decades if he continues to be healthy and fit."

Popescu's four lifts Romania

Russia, atop World Cup Group Five, can be overtaken if Israel win tomorrow

LONDON (AP) — Barcelona defender Gheorghe Popescu hit four goals in Romania's 3-0 romp over Liechtenstein but Portugal again couldn't hit the target in a 0-0 tie with Northern Ireland in World Cup qualifying action yesterday. Scotland didn't concede a goal for the 13th game out of 14 when it downed Estonia 2-0 to move points clear atop Group Four. The Scots now have 11 points from five games and lead Austria (seven from three) and Sweden (six from four). Scotland can open up a seven-point lead by downing Austria at home on Wednesday. Romania's one-sided victory

over soccer minnow Liechtenstein gave it a maximum 12 points from four games in Group Eight and an 18-0 goals tally after shutout victories over Lithuania, Iceland, Macedonia and now Liechtenstein, which has a 2-29 goal differential. Russia remained unbeaten in Group Five after a 1-1 tie at Cyprus, the goals coming within 60 seconds of each other in the first half. The Russians lead the standings with eight points from five games but can be overtaken tomorrow by Israel, which is a point behind and visits last-place Luxembourg.

Banin still doubtful for Luxembourg

THE national and under-21 squads arrived in Luxembourg on Friday afternoon and immediately began preparations for their respective qualifying matches today and tomorrow. The national squad — which already arrived without injured central defender Gadi Brumer who is suffering from a persistent ankle injury — may also have to face Luxembourg in the World Cup European Group 5 qualifier without captains Tal Banin and Nir Klingler.

Banin has just recovered from injury and coach Shlomo Scharf is worried about his match fitness. Veteran captain Klingler, who has been overlooked in favor of younger players in most of Israel's recent matches, is also out a certainty for the opening lineup, although Scharf has not yet made any final decisions about the squad in general. If neither Banin or Klingler open, Eli Obana will wear the captain's armband. The under-21 side plays its Luxembourg counterparts in their European Championship qualifier tonight.

It's Kfar Sava vs. Beersheba in State Cup last-8

Hapoel Kfar Sava clinched the final State Cup quarterfinal berth yesterday after a 2-0 win over Hapoel Taiba in Upp el Fahm. The quarterfinal draw made on Friday has made for a potentially thrilling semifinal doubleheader which will be held in the National Stadium, Ramat Gan on May 13. The quarterfinals, to be held on April 15 will see Beitar Jerusalem host Hapoel Beil She'an, Bnei Yehuda are at home to Maccabi Haifa, Kfar Sava will travel to the Negev to meet Hapoel Beersheba, and Maccabi will play host to Hapoel in the big Tel Aviv derby. There is a possible double-header in store, as Be'er Yehuda-Maccabi Haifa and the Tel Aviv derby is likely to attract a near-full house. In yesterday's Second Division 24th-round action, Hapoel Ashdod continue to rule with a 2-0 away win over Ness Ziona. With the top spot now almost assured, the battle for the second promotion spot to the National League is heating up with three clubs looking to be the main contenders. Ironi Ashdod are in second place with 45 points, Maccabi Netanya are in third with 42 and Hakoah Ramat Gan are fourth with 39 points.

SECOND DIVISION: Maccabi Acre 2, Beitar Tel Aviv 0; Maccabi Kiryat Gat 1, Ironi Ashdod 3; Hapoel Hadera 1, Hakoah Ramat Gan 2; Maccabi Yavne 1, Hapoel Bat Yam 0; Ness Ziona 0, Hapoel Ashdod 2; Hapoel Ramat Gan 0, Hapoel Kiryat Shmona 0; Hapoel Ashdod 1, Maccabi Netanya 2; Maccabi Jaffa 1, Maccabi Kfar Kana 0.

This week's winning Sportoto line: 1,1,2,2,1,2,X,2,1,X,1,1,2,2. This week's winning Toto Plus line: 2,1,2,X,X,2,X,1,X,X,1,1,2,2. Winning Totokote numbers: 7, 10, 16, 17, 18, 21, 25.

National Hockey League table with columns for Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Central, Pacific) and Western Conference (Central, Pacific) divisions, listing teams, wins, losses, points, goals for, and goals against.

CLASSIFIEDS section containing various advertisements for real estate, services, and businesses. Includes sub-sections for Rates, Dwellings, Situations Vacant, House Hold Help, Forgive the Rest, For Nice Family, Vehicles, Duty Hospitals, and Police/Fire.

WHERE TO GO section listing various museums, galleries, and cultural institutions. Includes Hapoel Kfar Sava, Hakoah Ramat Gan, and other local venues.

Joseph Hoffman, Ori Lewis Sports Editors

Key Representative Rates	
US Dollar	NIS 3.3610 -
Sterling	NIS 5.4863 -
Mark	NIS 2.0007 -

WALL STREET WEEK

Rising interest rates come as surprise to Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — One way or another, interest rates are going up, and stock prices are likely to fall. This shouldn't come as a shock to anyone who follows Wall Street, but for some reason, a lot of people seem surprised.

No one was taken aback this past week when the Federal Reserve pushed short-term interest rates a quarter of a percentage point higher — actually, a lot of people were probably relieved, knowing an increase was inevitable.

But Thursday, a lot of jaws fell open and "sell" buttons were pushed, because it looked like interest rates would go up again.

What's really interesting is that many economists have believed for some time that Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, if he follows his past practice, can be expected to nudge rates higher several times over the course of the year.

In 1994, the Fed under Greenspan's leadership doubled the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge one another on overnight loans, from 3 percent to 6 percent in seven increments.

Even before the Fed's move this past week, Salomon Brothers Inc. economists predicted that after an initial 25 basis point increase (economists' way of saying 25 percentage point), "An additional 25-50 basis points may be tacked on over the next few months." And as the market fell Thursday, Anthony O'Bryan,

a market analyst at A.G. Edwards and Sons in St. Louis, said, "I think the consensus is it will get one or two more rate increases before the year is over." So why did the Dow Jones industrial average fall 140 points, and the Standard and Poor's 500 index drop 16?

"Some folks were living in Never-Never Land," said David Schulman, chief market strategist at Salomon Brothers Inc.

William M. Lefevre, senior market analyst at Ehrenkrantz King Nussbaum, said the market was overreacting.

A big sell signal Thursday came when the yield on the Treasury's 30-year bond crossed the dreaded 7 percent threshold.

But panicky stock traders might actually see — if they look closer — something positive in that apparent calamity: Rising market interest rates have the same effect as a Fed increase — they filter through the rest of the economy and can have a chilling effect on business activity.

So if rising market rates do the trick, the Fed doesn't need to restrict credit further. The bond market, in a self-fulfilling prophecy of sorts, will have brought about the outcome it feared. And stock traders, who fear rising interest rates will depress earnings and make bonds more attractive than equities, will have already sent prices down.

So, maybe the worst that could happen is already happening? But it's important to

remember that however preoccupied investors seem with interest rates, other factors, including some that have little to do with the economy, also drive the market.

Edward Nicoski, a market analyst with Piper, Jaffray Inc., attributed some of Thursday's big losses to "window dressing," the portfolio adjustments made at the end of each quarter.

And Lefevre noted that in a week or so, the flood of first-quarter earnings reports will begin. They most certainly will have an impact on Wall Street.

"They ought to be pretty good," Lefevre said, and predicted that the results wouldn't show a surge in inflation, the biggest source of interest rate jitters. So the results may help move stocks higher again.

Despite falling 140.11 Thursday, the Dow average ended the week down only 64.20, at 6,740.59. Thursday's fall was the blue chips' eighth-largest.

The S and P 500 index fell 16.62 Thursday to 773.88, and had a drop of 10.22 for the week. The New York Stock Exchange's composite index was off 7.94 Thursday to 407.43, a decline of 5.37 for the week. The American Stock Exchange's composite fell 5.17 Thursday and 13.32 for the week, ending at 577.90.

And the Nasdaq composite was down 19.57 Thursday and 4.56 for the week, closing at 1,249.51.

US fourth-quarter growth slightly below expectations

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US economy expanded a bit less briskly in the final quarter last year than previously thought, the Commerce Department said on Friday, but still entered 1997 on a buoyant note.

In a second and final revision of gross domestic product for the three months from October through December, Commerce said national output expanded at a 3.8 percent annual rate during the quarter instead of 3.9 percent as it estimated a month ago.

The final revised figure for fourth-quarter GDP was a tad below forecasts offered by Wall Street economists, who had expected it to be revised up slightly to a 4.0 percent rate of growth instead of 3.9 percent.

GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced by workers and capital within US borders.

The amended fourth-quarter GDP estimate "was more than accounted for by a downward revision to consumer spending on services, primarily to medical care services, reflecting new hospital data for November," Commerce

said.

Most economists anticipate that during the first quarter, which ends tomorrow, GDP growth will slow modestly, to around a 3 percent rate of expansion. But an official estimate of first-quarter performance will not be available for another month.

The economy, now in a seventh year of unbroken expansion from the last recession in 1990-91, clearly retained abundant momentum at the end of last year.

Earlier this week, the Federal Reserve nudged up short-term interest rates by a quarter percentage point, concerned that demand was so strong it risked firing up potential inflation.

Consumer spending, which fuels two-thirds of national economic activity, grew at a \$39 billion annual rate in the final quarter. That was revised down from a \$39.8 billion estimate made a month ago but was far and away above the third quarter's \$5.9 billion rate of increase.

The economy had softened slightly in last year's third quarter, growing at a 2.1 percent rate before speeding up in the fourth quarter to begin this year at a robust pace.

China sets rules against dumping

BEIJING (Reuters) — China yesterday published a list of anti-dumping rules to protect local companies from unfair foreign competition.

Chinese economists said the rules would help domestic companies, many of them targets of similar dumping claims overseas, protect their share of the domestic market.

They also said the move appeared to be aimed at giving a legal framework to protection from unfair competition and clarifying procedures for its use.

"Many Chinese companies are unable to compete in the face of unfair trade practices," economist Cheng Xiusheng of the State Council (cabinet) Development Research Center told Reuters.

"Many other countries have imposed anti-dumping duties against Chinese products and China needs a system to regulate its own market and protect its companies," he said.

The rules, published in the official *People's Daily*, give the government the right to determine whether imported goods are aided by official subsidies and impose anti-dumping duties on foreign goods. Cash guarantees can be demanded to ensure payment.

Prices in the exporting country or third countries will be used to determine a fair price for goods in dispute and set a countervailing duty.

The rules also provide guidelines for domestic companies to file complaints about unfair competition and set a maximum length of 12 months for an investigation. Special cases are allowed to take 18 months.

The rules also empower the state to take retaliatory measures against countries that impose "discriminatory" countervailing duties against Chinese goods.

Beijing's official media have said the dumping of foreign goods on the domestic market had cost China some 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) a year and had caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Many domestic manufacturers were pressuring the government to take steps to offset these policies, newspapers have said.

Other economists said China is trying to codify the protection of its industries and bring its trade policies more in line with international practice.

They added that as China seeks to join the World Trade Organization it is being forced to make its policies more transparent.

25 hurt as Belgian steelworkers clash with police

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — Twenty-five people were injured, one of them seriously, when nearly 1,000 workers from the bankrupt Belgian steel maker Forges de Clabecq clashed with riot police on Friday during an impromptu protest action.

Police said 17 gendarmes and eight protesters were injured in the 30-minute clash. It was unclear whether the seriously injured person was a policeman or a demonstrator.

Seven police trucks, two water cannon and a personnel carrier were either wrecked or damaged as workers driving two bulldozers and brandishing iron bars tried to block the E19 motorway to Paris.

Police turned water cannon on the workers, fired tear gas and baton-charged them.

The demonstration broke up after the clashes and workers returned to the Clabecq plant seven kilometers away. A new mass meeting is planned at the factory on Tuesday morning. "It is not over," union organizer Roberto D'Orazio said, after the clash.

Clabecq workers have staged sporadic protests since the company was declared bankrupt in January.

On Friday their numbers were swelled by colleagues from French carmaker Renault's plant at Vilvoorde, near Brussels.

Renault said last month it would close the profitable Vilvoorde plant in July, with the loss of 3,100 jobs, and transfer the work to plants in France and Spain.

Renault workers from all three countries have also staged protests in Belgium and France.



Workers at the Belgian Clabecq mill attack riot police with sticks during a demonstration on the Brussels-Paris highway on Friday. (AP)

Pakistan plans more economic reforms

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government said yesterday it planned more economic reform packages in coming months after one on Friday cut several taxes and duties.

Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz told a news conference that Sharif would announce an agricultural revival package on April 3.

Other programs expected in the next few months would revamp and cut back state corporations, reform banking and capital markets, and promote investment, he said.

Aziz said the basic purpose of the package he unveiled before the National Assembly (the lower house of parliament) on Friday was to revive the economy, which he said had seen a slowdown under former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

Though the package had reduced the rates of import tariffs, personal and corporate taxes and a general sales tax, the government expected revenues would increase, he said.

"On the face of it, we have reduced the rates of taxes, but we do not expect much decline in the revenues as a result because of three factors — revival of economic activity, reduction in smuggling (of foreign goods) and less temptation to evade (taxes)," he said.

"If these three things happen, we hope the impact on our revenues will be positive rather than negative." The International Monetary Fund (IMF) welcomed Friday's package, which Aziz said would form the basis of talks with the IMF for an enhanced structural adjustment loan.

"The successful implementation of the government's reform measures accompanying macroeconomic improvements will provide basis for the adoption of multi-year arrangements under the concessional Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) and Extended Fund Facility (EFF)," an IMF statement said.

The IMF statement is likely to have a positive impact on Pakistani markets, analysts in Karachi said.

"This is very positive news," Anisur Rehman research head at SocGen-Crosby Securities said.

He said the IMF approval of the package was likely to draw foreign portfolio investors who had gone to the sidelines after the fund suspended a standby loan last week after Pakistan failed to meet agreed targets.

"We have an industry- and export-friendly economic reform package, the IMF's approval and the start of an India-Pakistan (peace) dialogue," Rehman said. "All these developments combined are likely to provide a very positive environment for foreign investors to make their entry."

Analyst Munir Ladhani of AKD Securities said a fall in the stock market on Friday should be seen as a "knee-jerk reaction."

He said the index would improve after investors had a deeper look into the reforms.

The finance minister said he hoped the stock market would respond positively "particularly after a few days."

S. Korea arrests Hanbo chairman

SEOUL (Reuters) — South Korean prosecutors on Friday arrested the chairman of the stricken Hanbo Group, whose steelmaking flagship collapsed in January, a prosecution official said.

"Mr. Chung Bo-keun was arrested and taken to the Youngjungpo prison," he said. Chung was taken into custody after being questioned at the prosecutors' office.

Prosecutors have accused Chung of pocketing about 37 billion won (\$41 million) from Hanbo Group funds. Hanbo, with 22 affiliate firms, is South Korea's 14th-biggest industrial conglomerate.

Chung's father, Hanbo founder Chung Tae-soo, is already standing trial along with nine other people in connection with the Hanbo loans scandal that has rocked the nation. He is in custody at a Seoul prison.

Hanbo Steel defaulted on debt repayments after racking up \$5.8 billion in largely unsecured loans.

Prosecutors reopened their probe into the Hanbo scandal last Friday, after the opposition attacked an earlier investigation as a whitewash which failed to bring major players to justice.

Prosecutors said they would seize the Chung family's assets to "end the bad practice of the past when businessmen survived even when their businesses collapsed." On Thursday, prosecutors said they had so far uncovered family assets of 344 billion won, which would be seized because of evidence the family had evaded taxes of 432.7 billion won.

"The prosecution will set up a separate team to track down the Chung family's hidden wealth," another prosecution official said.

Prosecutors have said they hoped the latest steps would help clear suspicions that the government made a secret deal to allow the Chung family to keep its millions.

Hanbo Steel's failure revealed a web of corruption and influence-peddling involving top bankers and politicians that allowed the company to secure loans far in excess of its capability to repay them.

Kim Dae-jung, leader of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics, on Friday proposed a meeting with President Kim Young-

sam, who heads the New Korea Party, and leaders of other parties to discuss economic problems created by the Hanbo collapse.

"The leaders need to discuss ways to counter current economic problems," Kim Dae-jung told a news conference.

"This is the tragedy of a government-controlled financial system," he said.

The meeting would aim to "relieve the public from anxiety and recover our falling credit internationally," Kim Young-sam immediately responded by agreeing to hold the meeting on April 1.

"The focus will be on stabilizing the economy," a presidential aide said. "Prosecutors and parliament should be left to disclose the truth of the Hanbo case." Parliament began a 45-day special investigation into the Hanbo scandal last Friday.

On Wednesday, prosecutors questioned two bankers in connection with the affair.

On trial with Chung Tae-soo are his chief accountant, a former cabinet minister, three bank executives, three close aides to President Kim Young-sam, and an opposition legislator.

Alcatel, Lagardere declare bids in Thomson sale

PARIS (Reuters) — French engineering group Alcatel Alsthom and conglomerate Lagardere said on Friday they had declared intentions to bid in the privatization of defense electronics firm Thomson-CSF.

The separate bids mark a rematch of last year's dogfight between the two groups for Thomson-CSF and the dashing of government hopes that the Alcatel and Lagardere chairmen could come together to consolidate the defense industry.

"Lagardere confirms it is a candidate," said a spokesman for Lagardere Groupe LAGA, whose interests span from publishing to missiles.

A spokesman for engineering and telecommunications group Alcatel Alsthom said: "I can con-

firm that Alcatel Alsthom and Dassault Industries have filed a joint candidature for Thomson-CSF." Sale terms and conditions, published on March 12, set 1100 GMT on March 28 as the deadline for filing intentions to bid.

The government will declare within five working days whether the candidates are acceptable.

Thomson-CSF makes missiles, radars, aircraft avionics, training simulators, and telecommunications systems. It made a 1996 net attributable profit of 745 million francs (\$131.4 million) on sales of 36.27 billion francs.

Analysts view the Thomson-CSF sale as a key step in rationalizing the fragmented French industry, which is needed to prepare a consolidation in Europe.

The task is made all the more urgent as US firms merge rapidly to form defense and civilian groupings which dwarf their foreign rivals.

France currently has three missile firms — Lagardere's Matra, Aerospatiale, and Thomson-CSF, three satellite poles — Alcatel, Aerospatiale, and Matra, two military communications players — Thomson-CSF and Alcatel, and two radar makers — Thomson-CSF and Dassault Electronique.

Thus the government, in its sale terms and conditions, called for the biggest possible industrial grouping around Thomson-CSF, to cut out duplication in scarce research and development funds and boost economies of scale.

Alcatel chairman Serge

PM

Continued from Page 1

If we are to proceed with the peace process, we must find the best methods to obtain an environment of calm, otherwise it will be difficult to do what is necessary." Ross was to brief US President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last night of the results of his talks with Arafat and Netanyahu.

Netanyahu told the cabinet on Friday that Arafat had consented to the US demand and promised to take determined action to stop terrorism and other violence. He also stated that the four PA-affiliated offices operating in eastern Jerusalem will be closed.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said the resumption of talks or any other gestures to the Palestinians would be taken as a reward for terrorism.

Mordechai and IDF Chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak informed the ministers of additional "unspecific" warnings of possible terrorist attacks. They also reviewed the security forces' deployment in anticipation of more riots in the territories.

If it transpires that Arafat is keeping his promises and taking a firm hand against terrorism, Ross may return to the region within a few days to advance the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, sources said. It is not clear whether Ross raised any new American initiative or ideas to solve the crisis between Israel and the Palestinians so that the peace process can be resumed, or whether Netanyahu's idea of proceeding directly to the permanent settlement was discussed.

A senior US official indicated last week that the Americans doubt the chances of advancing the permanent settlement at this point, due to the breakdown of confidence between the two sides.

Meanwhile, Ross's visit to Jerusalem on Friday was considered

a failure by Palestinian sources, who said it extracted no agreement from Netanyahu to stop building on Har Homa, their basic condition for renewing talks.

Ross met briefly with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat after meeting with Arafat in Rabat, but had nothing to offer the Palestinians. Erekat accused Israel of constantly violating the Oslo agreement by building settlements and through other activities. "There will be no talks while settlement building continues," he said.

In a press conference on returning to Gaza from a week of diplomatic activity in the Muslim world, Arafat said, "I don't know what happened between him [Ross] and Mr. Netanyahu, but Mr. Netanyahu's orders and decisions are escalating the situation in the whole area."

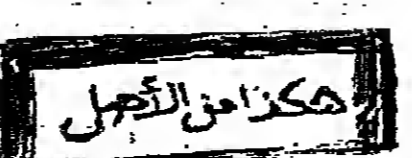
In Rabat, Arafat had told the Jerusalem Committee's one-day meeting that the "Judaization of the city of Jerusalem" is a "dangerous" threat.

The PA cabinet and executive committee met last night in Gaza, after with Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo told reporters that "Netanyahu is responsible for every drop of blood, either of Palestinians or of Israelis. We see no end to this crisis, except by reversing all the decisions of Netanyahu on settlements... The Palestinian leadership considers it useless to have meetings with the Israelis while the policy of settlements continues."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview broadcast yesterday on Israeli television that Netanyahu's plan to negotiate a final settlement with the Palestinians in six months is unrealistic.

"The interim agreement took years and years," he told Channel 2. "I can't believe that they will be able to finish in six months." Mubarak said the Palestinians cannot embark on the final status negotiations while Israel continues its Har Homa housing project for Jews in Jerusalem.

Due to the Easter holiday weekend, there are no international stock data.



NEWS

in brief

Three babies die of 'crib death'

Three babies, all about four months old, died early Friday morning at different places in the country, apparently from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The first incident occurred at about 3 a.m., when a Magen David Adom ambulance team was summoned to a home in Netanya to bring an unconscious infant to Laniado Hospital, where doctors failed to revive it. Three hours later, an MDA team was called to a home in Rebovot, where it determined the death of another infant. At the same time, a third infant was declared dead by another MDA team in Beit She'an.

Autopsies are to be performed on all three babies for a final determination of the causes of death.

Herzl Rad released

Herzl Rad, who had been sentenced to a three-year prison term for making contact with Iranian intelligence agents, was released Friday from Ma'asiyahu Prison after serving two years of his term.

Despite the nature of his crime, he was asked to sign a statement promising to perform reserve duty if called. Sources in the Adjutancy Corps, however, said that Rad is not listed in the IDF's manpower database, and that apparently the statement is a standard one that is signed by prisoners who are released early for good behavior.

Upon his release, Rad said only that he was happy to be out of prison. He refused to comment on his crime, saying "I want to rest a week, and then maybe I will talk."

Virginia Commonwealth U. exhibit opens

A new exhibition at the Haifa University Art Gallery features works by 11 faculty members of the painting and printmaking department of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, one of the three largest professional arts schools in the United States. The exhibition, which was opened last night by US cultural attache Dan Screebny and Professor Morris Yarowsky of Virginia Commonwealth University, is part of a cultural exchange that includes a Haifa University art exhibition currently touring the US.

Flatto-Sharon paintings go up in flames

A collection of valuable paintings belonging to businessman Shmuel Flatto-Sharon was destroyed in a fire that broke out in a storeroom of Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium on Friday night.

The paintings, valued at thousands of dollars, were to be displayed in an exhibition organized by Flatto-Sharon, that was due to open later this week. Firefighters said an initial investigation indicated that the blaze was caused by an electrical short.

Matza refuses to raise hospital rates

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza refused on Friday to sign an order raising hospitalization rates by 10%. In a letter to Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Matza said he was "shocked" to find that the Treasury's prices committee had decided to raise rates by that amount, while at the same time increasing income of the health funds (from health taxes) by only 8.82%.

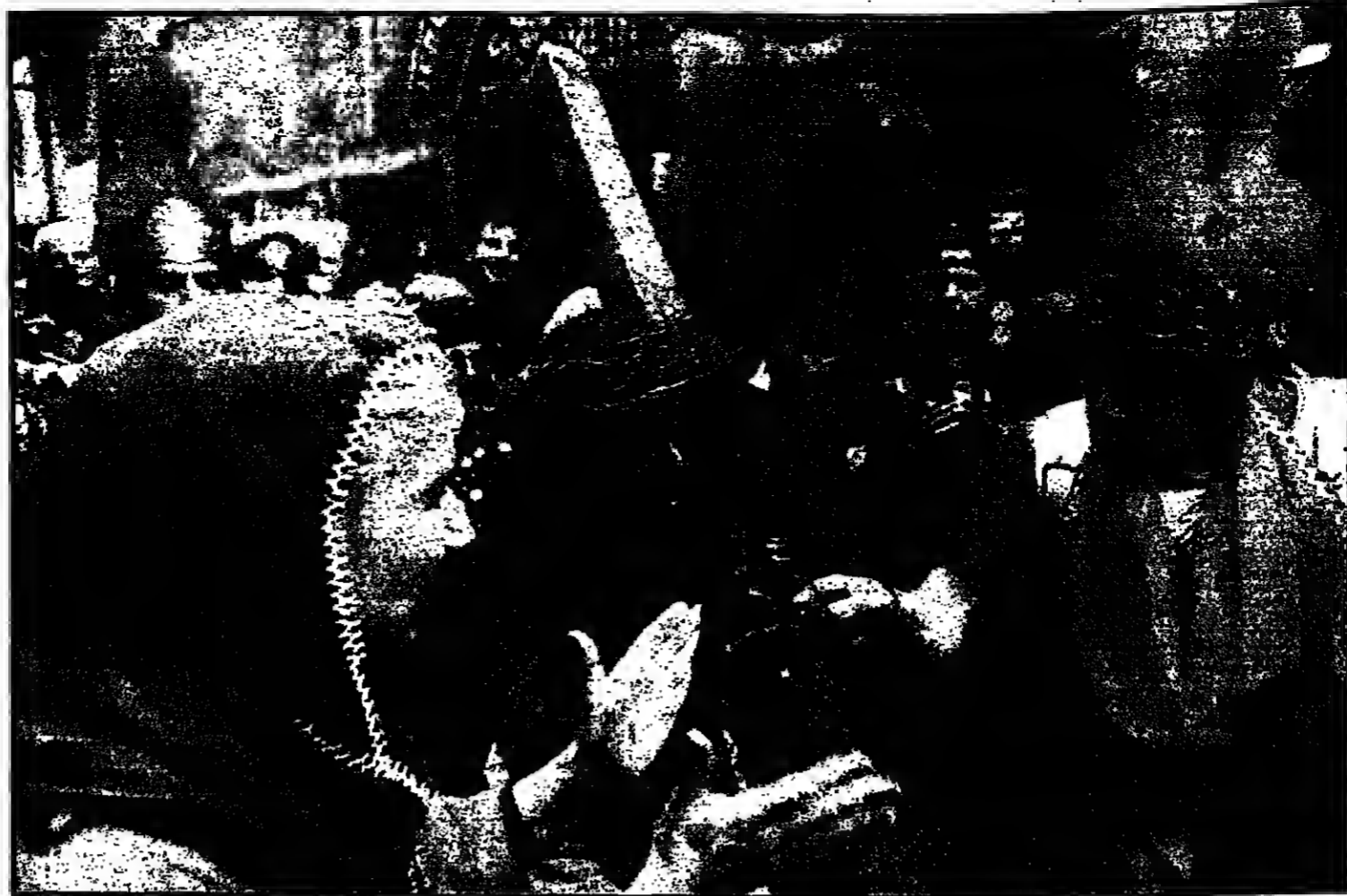
This shortfall would make it impossible for insurers to make ends meet and pay increased costs of hospitalization, Matza wrote. The significance of this gap will

be an increase in the yearly health services' deficit of NIS 100 million - coming on top of an existing deficit of nearly NIS 1.5 billion.

Matza said it is impossible for him to sign an order that would raise the per-diem and differential prices for hospitalization - which is justified - while at the same time not compensating the health funds.

"How do we allow ourselves to take such a step despite our awareness of the serious deficits in the health funds?" he asked.

Last week, Matza told the Knesset Finance Committee that unless the government made up the shortfall, the health funds would "collapse after Pessah."



Pilgrim actors recreate Jesus's progression along the Via Dolorosa on Friday.

Thousands mark Good Friday

Thousands of pilgrims from across the globe, some carrying wooden crosses and others singing hymns, walked along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem's Old City on Good Friday to retrace the route tradition says Jesus took to his crucifixion.

Security was intense, and police with M-16 assault rifles patrolled the route. One policeman stopped a Chilean pilgrim dressed up as a Roman soldier, complete with a foil breast plate and knee high leather sandals. The Israeli policeman asked to see the tip of the pilgrim's spear, which turned out to be made from plastic.

Despite the heavy security, the Good Friday procession took place in a festival atmosphere.

Members of different congregations wore hats in matching colors to be able to find each other in the throng. A group of about 100 pilgrims from Egypt

wore red baseball caps and chanted Latin hymns, following a leader who carried a five-foot-high wooden cross.

"I feel like I'm at a rock concert," said Jackie Lewis, 20, from Gainesville, Florida.

The annual procession began in the northeastern corner of the Old City, near where the Roman military headquarters once stood. Tradition says that this was where the Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate, tried and sentenced Jesus before sending him off to crucifixion and forcing him to carry his own cross.

However, some Bible scholars say it is more likely the trial and sentencing took place at Herod's Palace at the opposite end of the Old City, and that the "Route of Sorrows" began there.

In other words, for hundreds of years, pilgrims have been going the wrong way.

"The Via Dolorosa has been

determined by an accident of history," said Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a Dominican priest who recently published an article on the subject in *Bible Review*, a Washington-based magazine.

Murphy O'Connor, whose study is based in part on work by other scholars, says the real route Jesus took went from west to east, and never touched the traditional Via Dolorosa.

He said it would make no sense for Pilate - who was visiting Jerusalem - to stay at the fortress rather than the more luxurious palace of King Herod.

Murphy O'Connor said the traditional route was part of a tour for visiting pilgrims developed by the Franciscans.

There is little dispute, however, that Jesus ended his walk with the cross at the site marked today by the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built where Jesus is believed to have been crucified

and buried.

Most pilgrims in the Old City took the dispute in stride.

"I have traveled a few thousand miles, and if I'm off by a couple of feet, that's okay by me," said Allee Bowers, 60, a retiree from Royalston, Massachusetts.

But Barry Essex, 60, of London, said it was "very hard to accept that something that is so traditional and steeped in history over thousands of years is wrong."

Should Christians now follow a different path? Palestinian shopkeepers who sell souvenirs along the Via Dolorosa don't think so. And even Murphy O'Connor suggested it was better not to tamper with tradition.

"The fact that thousands of pilgrims over thousands of years have prayed here is much more important than what I think," he said.

WEATHER

Jerusalem	6-18
Tel Aviv	11-22
Haifa	10-22
Beer Sheva	9-24
East	12-22
Dead Sea	14-27
Samarita	8-19
Afula	6-22
Tiberias	8-25
Golan	4-17

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, rise in temperatures.

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance drawing were the ace of spades, queen of hearts, ace of diamonds and ace of clubs.

Report: Jewish in-fighting holding up property return

By Jerusalem Post Staff

In-fighting among Jewish groups could slow the return of Jewish communal property confiscated in Poland during World War II, according to a report in this week's editions of *US News & World Report*.

Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski had been expected to sign a bill before Pessah to return to Jewish control thousands of cemeteries, synagogues, schools and hospitals that belonged to Poland's pre-war Jewish population of about 3 million, *US News* reported. The measure had been negotiated between the Warsaw government and the World Jewish Restitution Organization, headed by Edgar Bronfman.

However, *US News* said, the Jewish community of Poland, with fewer than 5,000 people, is refusing to honor an agreement with the WJRO. That agreement calls for the WJRO and the Polish Federation of Jewish Congregations to establish a foundation to coordinate the return of the property. The Polish Federation said it is ready to share the proceeds of the property, but will not cede control of the foundation to the WJRO.

Across Eastern and Central Europe, property restitution in the last five years has been bedeviled by disputes between governments, the WJRO and the local Jewish communities. It has been difficult to overcome governments' resistance to returning property. Following on the heels of the problem of recouping the property is the rancorous debate between local and international Jewish groups over who is the legitimate "successor" to pre-war Jewish communities.

Ministry issues new school rules

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Spare the rod and spoil the child? Not in Israel.

According to a new Education Ministry directive, issued by ministry Director-General Beazion Dell, bad behavior cannot be used as an excuse to reduce a pupil's grade, and physical punishment is definitely not allowed.

In the part of the directive that deals with how to handle discipline problems, teachers are forbidden to use physical punishment, verbal abuse or to write down reprimands against

pupils. Instead, Dell recommends telling the pupils what their misbehavior was, and asking them to explain it.

In the event of ongoing misbehavior or more serious cases, the school is expected to bring the matter to the attention of the pupil's parents. The incidents should be documented, including what actions were taken to deal with the problem.

The directive leaves the punishment up to the teacher or homeroom teacher, grade coordinator or principal, depending on its seriousness.

The most serious punishment - suspension for four days - will be meted out by the prin-

cipal only after consultation with the grade coordinator, homeroom teacher, teachers and an adviser.

Pupils who are suspended will be required to make up all the work they miss.

But there is bad news for flashy dressers among the nation's pupils: the directive also gives schools permission to set standards for dress, haircuts, make-up, jewelry and even the type of shoes pupils wear to school. This also applies to teachers, whose external appearance "should be in keeping with the educational institution," the directive states.

AACI & THE JERUSALEM POST

Eye of the Storm

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Swiss Army to help guard Zionism centennial

ZURICH (Reuters) - The Swiss Army will be called in to back up local police guarding an international gathering of Jewish leaders in Basle in August, the government said last week.

The cabinet agreed to deploy about 730 soldiers to help secure August 31 celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress.

"It is in Switzerland's domestic and foreign interests to make sure the ceremonies are carried out in a dignified way," Defense Minister Adolf Ogi told reporters.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon is to stand in for President Ezer Weizman, who cancelled his appearance due to what officials said were scheduling conflicts.

Ogi's Department of Military Affairs said the troops could be reinforced by up to several hundred additional men if Basle authorities request more forces.

The troops will include an air force detachment called into provide helicopters for the police, a ministry spokesman said.

Federal Police chief Urs von Daeliken was quoted as saying Middle East tensions could give rise to threats to the Zionist commemoration.

